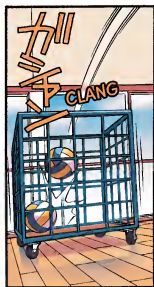
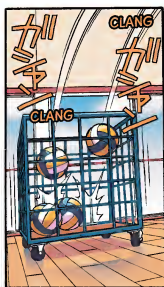
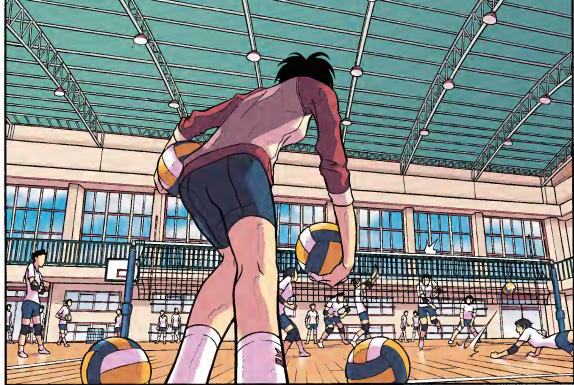


Shojo FIGHT!

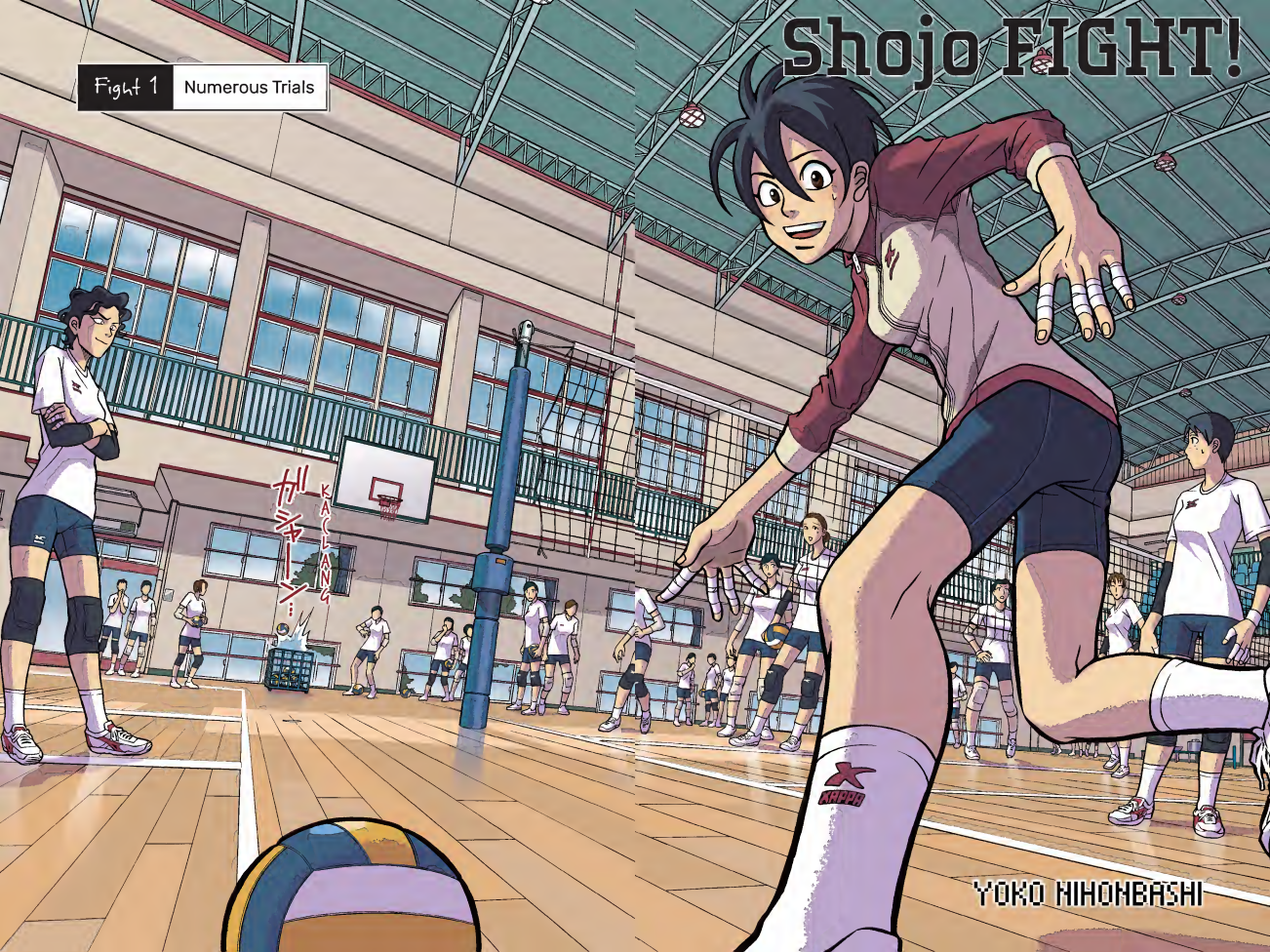


YOKO NIHONBASHI



Shojo FIGHT!

Fight 1 Numerous Trials



カスラン
カスラン
カスラン

YOKO NISHIBASHI

YES,
SIR...

GO WASH
UNIFORMS
WITH THE
FIRST-YEAR
STUDENTS!



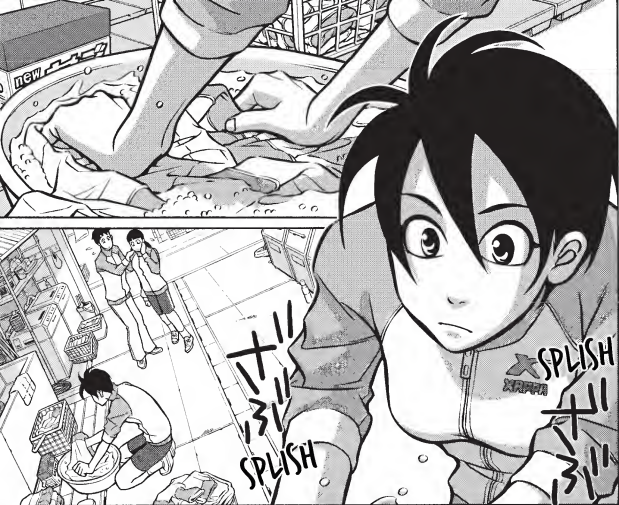
GOOD
LUCK
AT THE
PRACTICE
GAME
SUNDAY!

WE'LL BE
BACK TO
HEAR ABOUT
THE JUNIOR
NATIONAL
TEAM.

KOYUKI-
CHAN,
SMILE
FOR THE
CAMERA!

LIKE THAT,
NICE AND
NATURAL.

YEAH,
THAT'S
GREAT!



DO THESE,
TOO, WILL
YA?



NERI'S
DOING THIS
'CAUSE THE
COACH TOLD
HER TO.

CHIYO-
SEM-
PAI...

IF SHE
GOES
BACK
NOW,
HE'LL BE
PISSED.

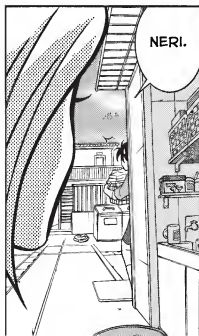


NERI-
SEM-
PAI...



HEY,
FIRST-
YEARS!

...WE'LL
DO THAT,
SO PLEASE
GET BACK
TO PRAC-
TICE.



I MEAN,
IT'S SO
MUCH MORE
EFFICIENT
THAT WAY.

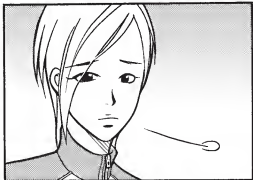
COACH
CAUGHT ME
THROWING
THE BALLS
INTO THEIR
CAGE.

WHAT
DID YOU
DO THIS
TIME?

NERI.

HA
HA.

BACK
FROM
YOUR
INTER-
VIEWS,
I SEE.



...BUT I
REALLY
DON'T MIND
THE BENCH.
I LEARN
A LOT
THERE.

THANKS
...

I'M
GONNA
GO DRY
THESE.



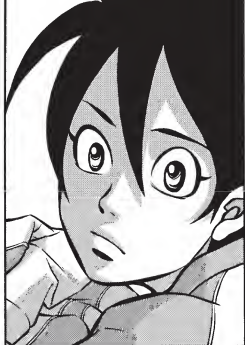
I CAN
PRACTICE
WITH YOU
AT NIGHT
OR SOME-
THING.

YOU SHOULD
TRY TO GET ON
THE STARTING
LINEUP FOR OUR
PRACTICE
GAME THIS
SUNDAY.



NOT ALL
OF US ARE
GONNA
GET TO GO
TO THE
ACADEMY'S
HIGH
SCHOOL.

...



...AC-
CORDING
TO
COACH.

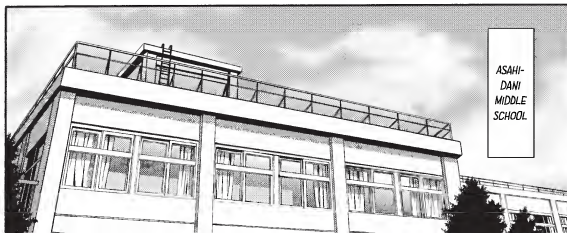


THEY'LL
BE GETTING
RID OF A FEW
MORE PEOPLE
THIS YEAR...

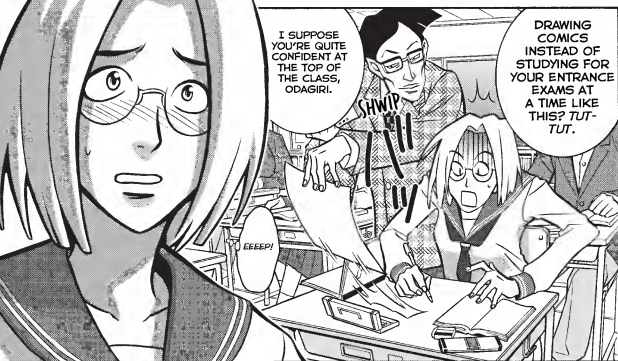


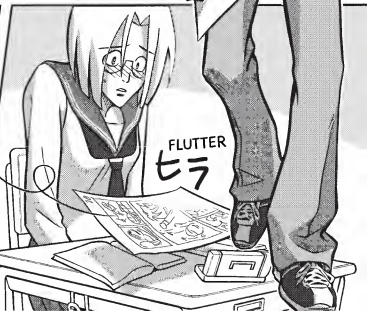
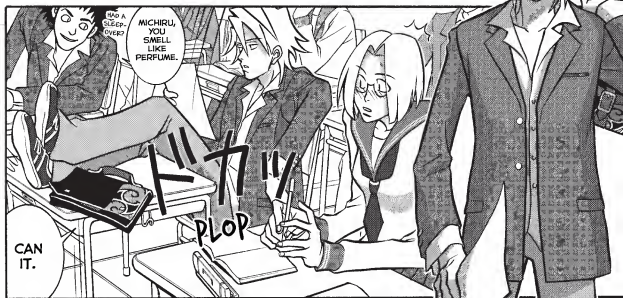
I
HAVEN'T
BEEN
STUDY-
ING FOR
ENTRANCE
EXAMS.

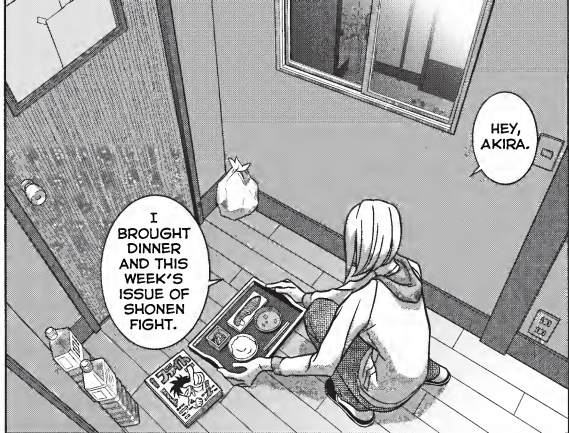
UH-
OH.



ASAHI-
DANI
MIDDLE
SCHOOL.







HEY,
AKIRA.

I
BROUGHT
DINNER
AND THIS
WEEK'S
ISSUE OF
SHONEN
FIGHT.



...BUT THE GUY
WHO SITS NEXT
TO ME, SHIKI-
SHIMA-KUN, GOT
IT BACK FROM
THE TEACHER
FOR ME.

I GOT
CAUGHT
DRAWING
COMICS IN
CLASS
...



THAT'S
RIGHT.

ISN'T HE
THAT GUY
WHO'S AN
OLD FRIEND
OF NERI
OISHI?



HI,
SIS.

WELL
...

HOW WAS
SCHOOL?

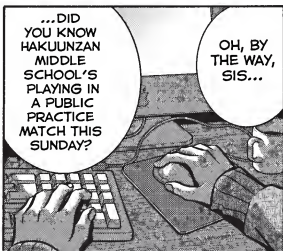


THERE'S A
GOOD CHANCE
YOUR BELOVED
NERI OISHI
WON'T BE
PLAYING,

YEP.

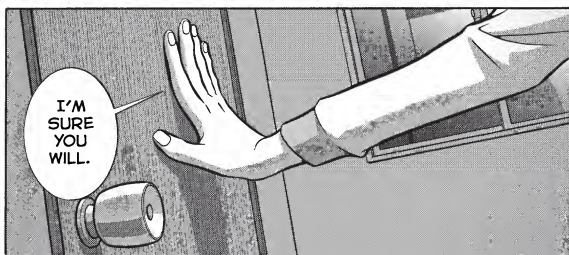
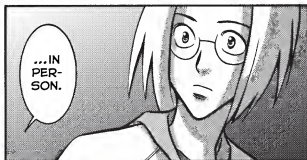
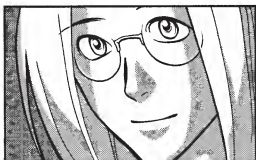
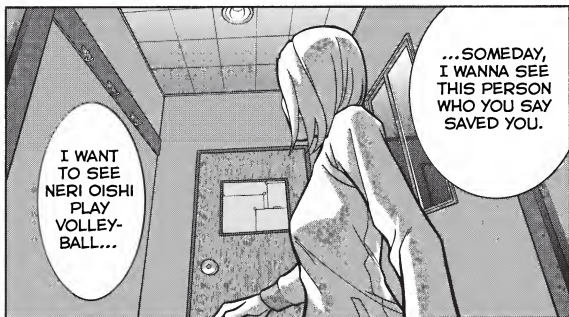
REALLY?!

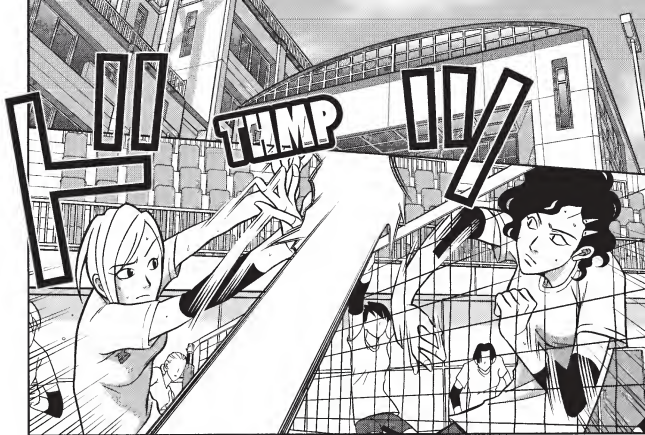
BUT YOU
MIGHT AT
LEAST
CATCH A
GLIMPSE
OF HER.

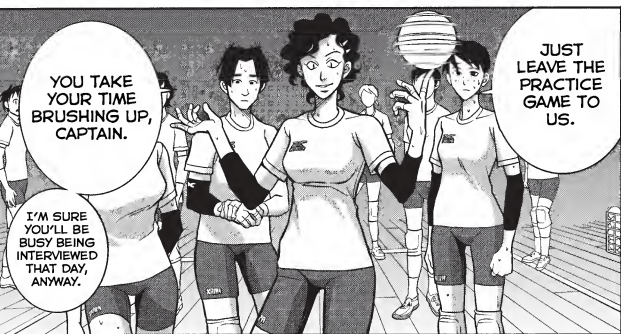


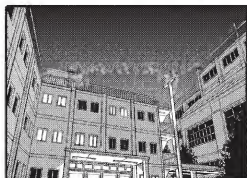
...DID
YOU KNOW
HAKUUNZAN
MIDDLE
SCHOOL'S
PLAYING IN
A PUBLIC
PRACTICE
MATCH THIS
SUNDAY?

OH, BY
THE WAY,
SIS...



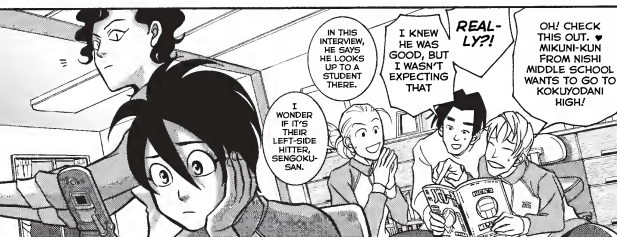


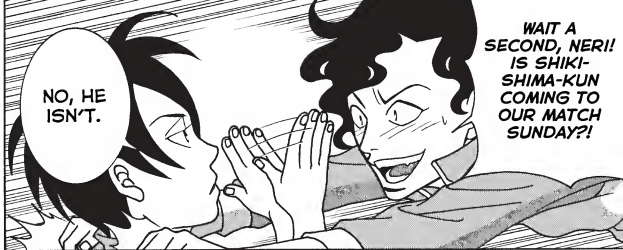




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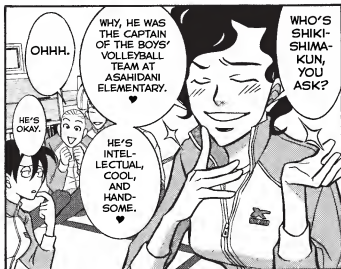






NO, HE
ISN'T.

WAIT A
SECOND, NERI!
IS SHIKI-
SHIMA-KUN
COMING TO
OUR MATCH
SUNDAY?!



OHHH.

HE'S
OKAY.

WHY, HE WAS
THE CAPTAIN OF
THE BOYS' VOLLEYBALL
TEAM AT
ASAHDANI
ELEMENTARY.

HE'S
INTEL-
LECTUAL,
COOL,
AND
HAND-
SOME.

WHO'S
SHIKI-
SHIMA-
KUN, YOU
ASK?



WHO'S
SHIKI-
SHIMA?

WHAT'S
UP?

I DON'T
THINK
HE EVEN
KNOWS
THERE IS A
MATCH.

SLUMP



I JUST
WANTED TO
ASK HIM
ABOUT A
PRESSURE
POINT.

ARE YOU SURE
YOU TWO ARE
NOTHING MORE
THAN CHILDHOOD
FRIENDS?!

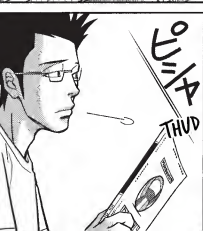
WHY IS HE
TEXTING
WITH YOU,
ANYWAY?!



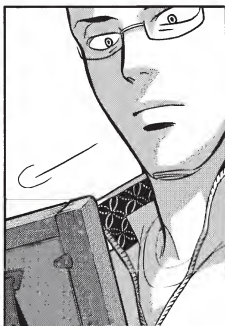
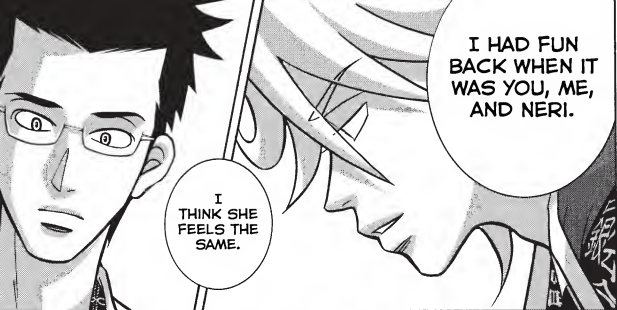
I'M
GONNA
GO TAKE
A BATH.

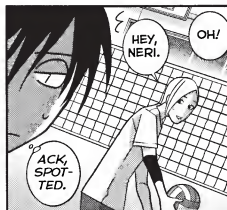
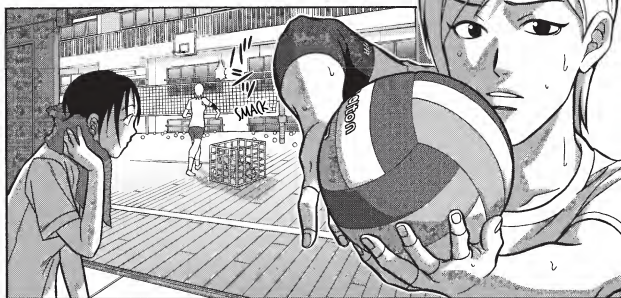
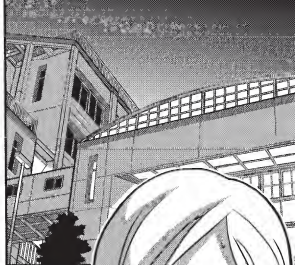
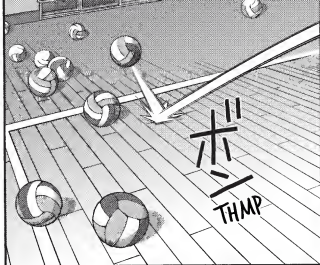
RIGHT...
I GUESS
HE IS THE
HEIR TO
SHIKISHIMA
OSTEO-
PATHY.

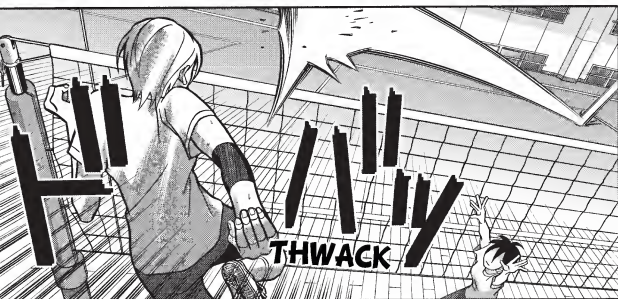
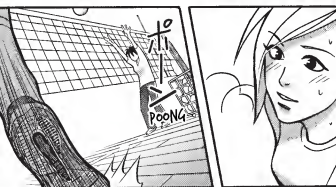
Y'KNOW,
ONE TIME, I
INJURED MY
SHOULDER
AND HE
FIXED IT
FOR ME.

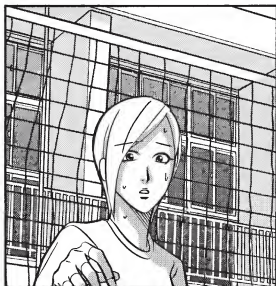
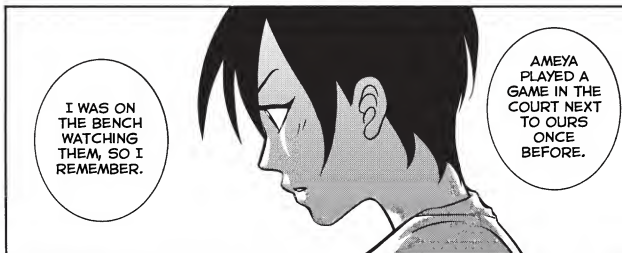
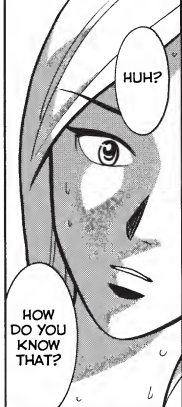


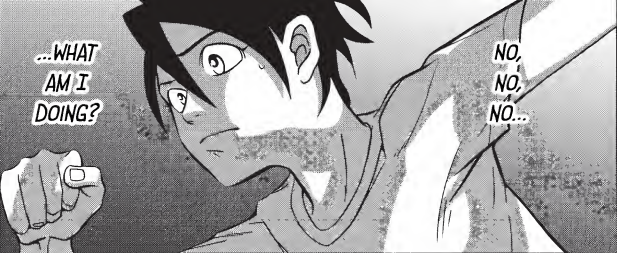












...WHAT
AM I
DOING?

NO,
NO,
NO...



I CAN'T LET
MYSELF HELP
HER ANY MORE.



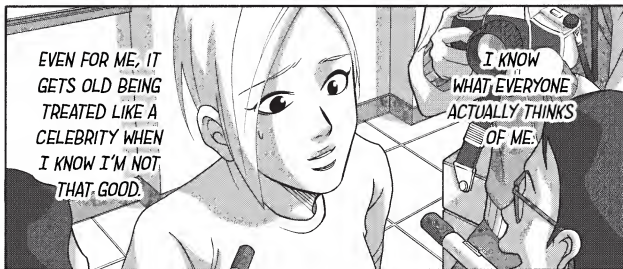
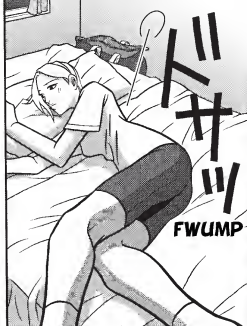
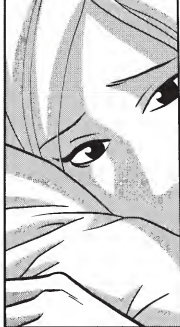
DON'T
GET ALL
CARRIED
AWAY...

...JUST
BECAUSE SHE
SHOWED SOME
CONCERN
FOR YOU.



...I'VE
RESOLVED
NOT TO
MAKE
FRIENDS.

EVER
SINCE
THAT
DAY...



EVEN FOR ME, IT
GETS OLD BEING
TREATED LIKE A
CELEBRITY WHEN
I KNOW I'M NOT
THAT GOOD.

I KNOW
WHAT EVERYONE
ACTUALLY THINKS
OF ME.



...I'VE
FINALLY
FOUND A
FRIEND.

...MAYBE...

BUT...



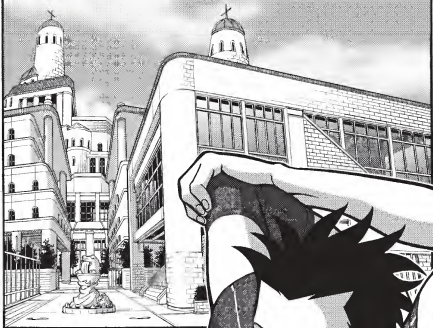
I'M SICK OF
NOT BEING ABLE
TO LET MY
GUARD DOWN
WITH ANYONE
BECAUSE OF MY
POSITION ON
THE TEAM.

AND THAT
ASIDE, I DON'T
HAVE WHAT IT
TAKES TO BE
CAPTAIN IN THE
FIRST PLACE.





HEY,
SHI-
GERU!



WOULD
YA TAKE
A LOOK
AT IT?

MY KNEE'S
BEEN KILLIN'
ME SINCE
YESTERDAY.

ONE
THOU-
SAND
YEN*,
PLEASE.

*About ten dollars.



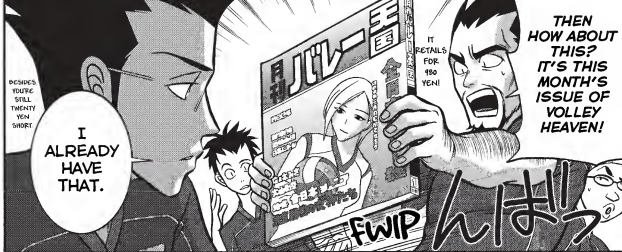
DON'T
YOU KNOW
HOW TIGHT
THINGS
ARE FOR
ME THIS
MONTH?!

YOU CAN'T
TAKE MONEY
FROM YOUR
CAPTAIN!

YOU
ASS!

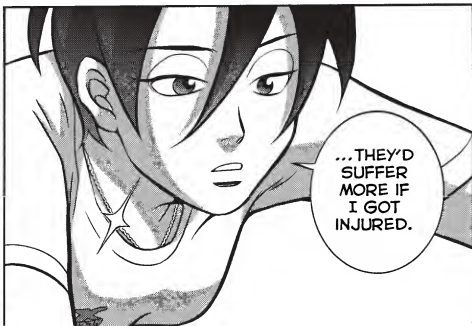
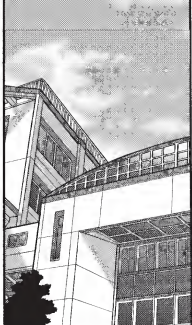
I
DON'T
CARE.

HA
HA
HA

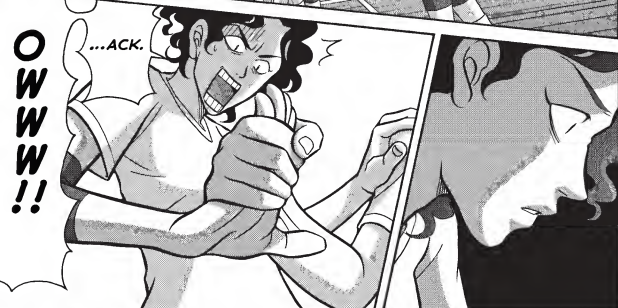


Magazine: Monthly Volley Heaven











YEAH ...

IS THAT TRUE?



THERE'S NO WAY NERI WOULD SAY THAT...

"HANDS OFF, BITCH"?



BUT CHIYO WAS TRYING TO TAKE HER NECKLACE BY FORCE, SO YOU KNOW.

I HEARD HER WITH MY OWN EARS.

ME, TOO.

YEAH.

YEAH ...



OKAY.

SOMEONE TAKE HER TO THE NURSE'S OFFICE.

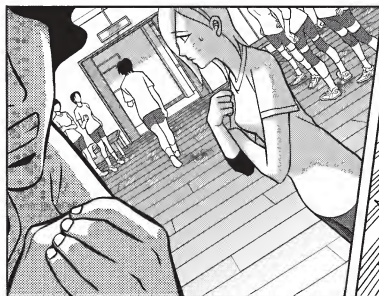
TRY TO CALM DOWN, CHIYO.

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU WENT PSYCHO ON MY HAND LIKE THAT!

I'VE GOT A FRACTURE FOR SURE!

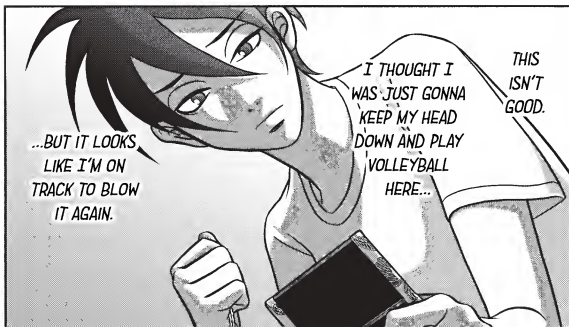
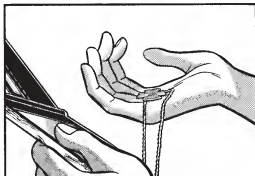
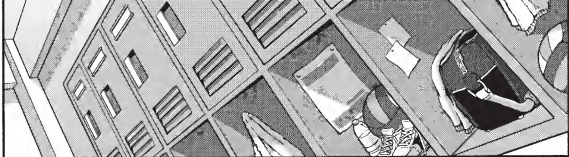
NERI, TAKE THAT NECKLACE OFF.

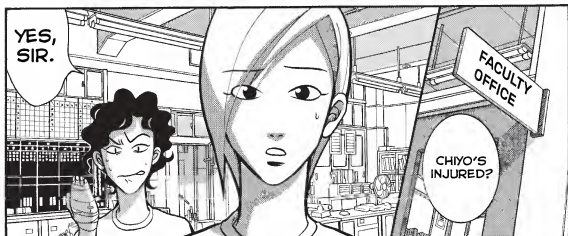
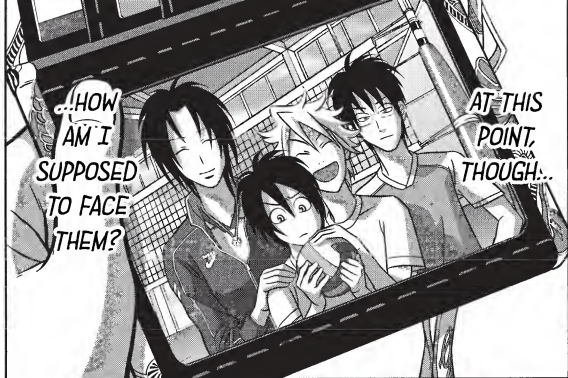
RIGHT.

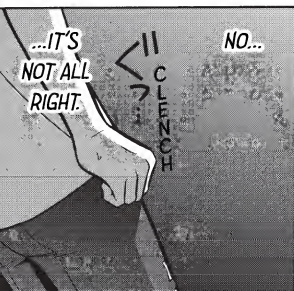
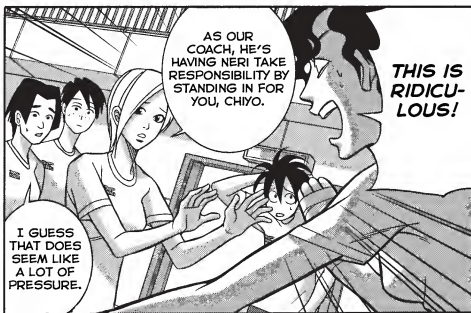


IT'S GONNA BE YOUR FAULT IF I CAN'T PLAY IN TOMORROW'S MATCH!

RE-MEMBER THAT, NERI!







...BUT IF SHE REALLY TRIED, YOU WOULDN'T BE ON OUR STARTING LINEUP.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT TURNED HER INTO SUCH A SLACKER...

HUH?

SHE'S TRYING TO SAVE HER HIDE BY GETTING ON YOUR GOOD SIDE, SINCE YOU'RE THE CAPTAIN.

NO WAY.

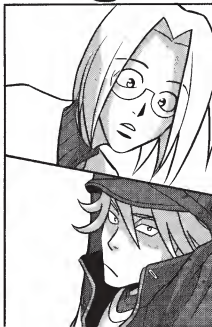
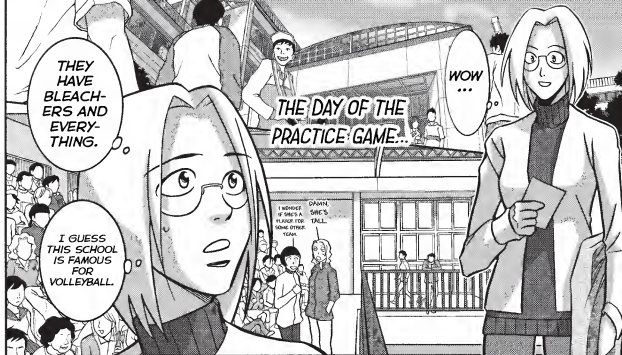
NERI KNOWS DAMN WELL WHAT LEVEL YOU'RE REALLY PLAYING AT.

SLAM

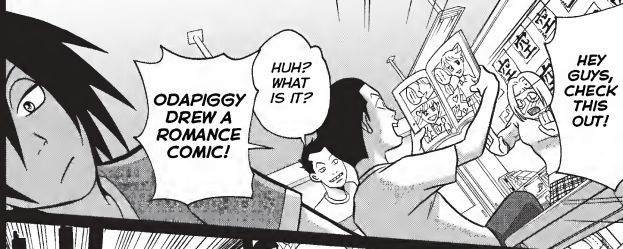
YOU JUST HAVEN'T SEEN THE OLD NERI.

HMPH.

NERI'S NOT LIKE THAT.



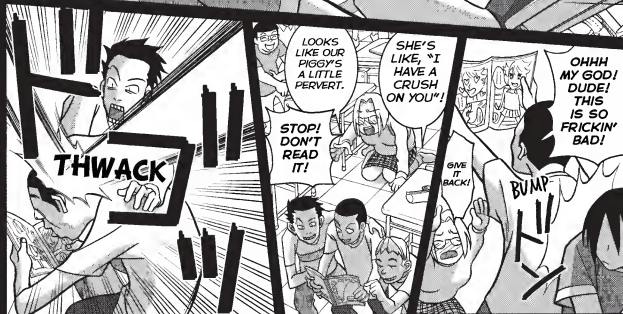




ODAPIGGY
DREW A
ROMANCE
COMIC!

HUH?
WHAT
IS IT?

HEY
GUYS,
CHECK
THIS
OUT!



LOOKS
LIKE OUR
PIGGY'S
A LITTLE
PERVERT.

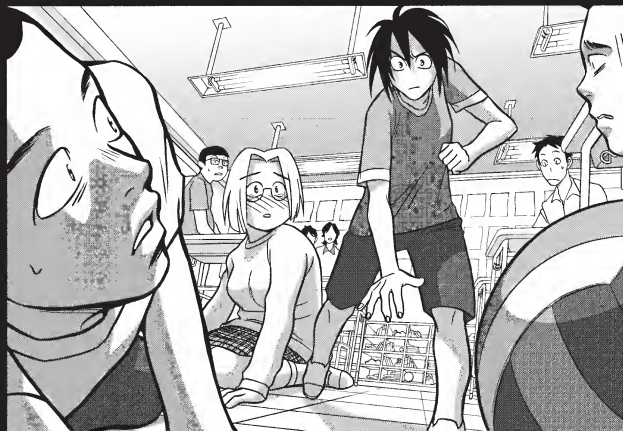
SHE'S
LIKE, "I
HAVE A
CRUSH
ON YOU!"

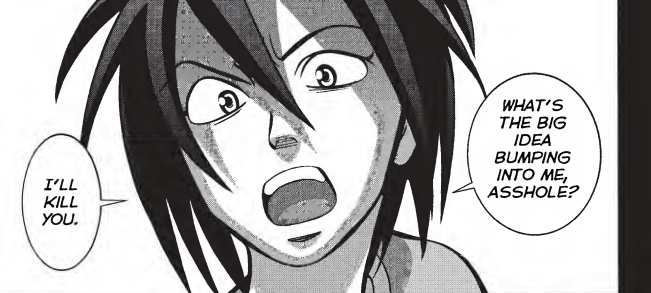
OH
MY
GOD!
DUDE!
THIS
IS SO
FRICKIN'
BAD!

STOP!
DON'T
READ
IT!

GIVE
IT
BACK!

BUMP





I'LL
KILL
YOU.

WHAT'S
THE BIG
IDEA
BUMPING
INTO ME,
ASSHOLE?



めえ
sob
sob
めえ

TH-
THANKS
...



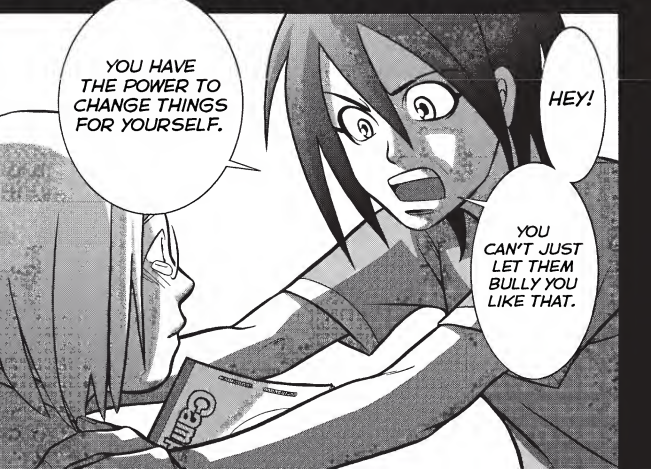
ちゅ
TCH!

AND
RIGHT
BEFORE
A GAME,
TOO...



LET'S
GET
OUTTA
HERE!

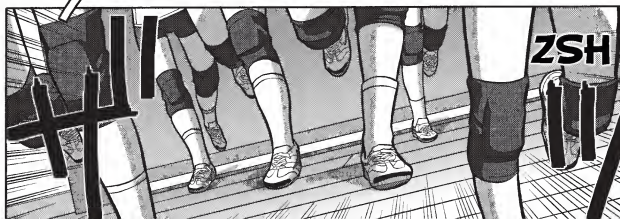
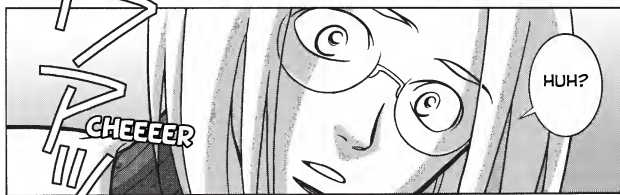
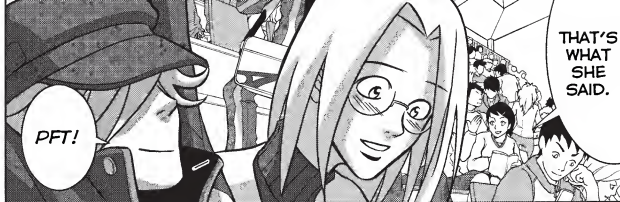
S-
SOR-
RY!



YOU HAVE
THE POWER TO
CHANGE THINGS
FOR YOURSELF.

HEY!

YOU
CAN'T JUST
LET THEM
BULLY YOU
LIKE THAT.





I HOPE THINGS GO OKAY...

YEAH.

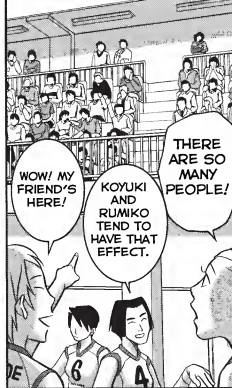
I WONDER, THOUGH...



BEING WATCHED BY THEM IS MORE NERVE-WRACKING THAN ANYTHING.

I'M GLAD OUR UPPER-CLASSMEN FROM THE HIGH SCHOOL ARE OUT ON A TRIP.

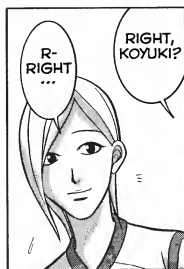
THEY'D WREAK OUR NECKS IF THEY SAW US MESS UP.



WOW! MY FRIEND'S HERE!

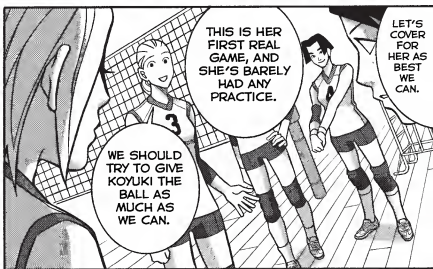
KOYUKI AND RUMIKO TEND TO HAVE THAT EFFECT.

THERE ARE SO MANY PEOPLE!



R-RIGHT...

RIGHT, KOYUKI?



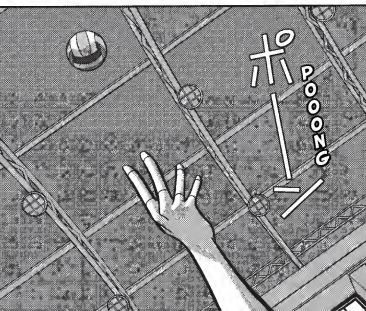
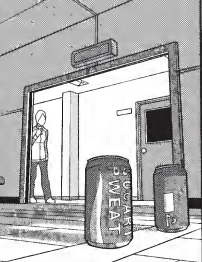
THIS IS HER FIRST REAL GAME, AND SHE'S BARELY HAD ANY PRACTICE.

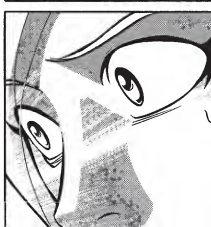
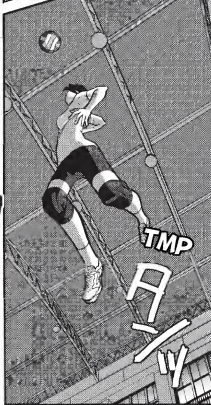
WE SHOULD TRY TO GIVE KOYUKI THE BALL AS MUCH AS WE CAN.

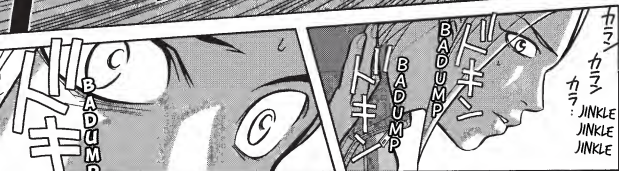
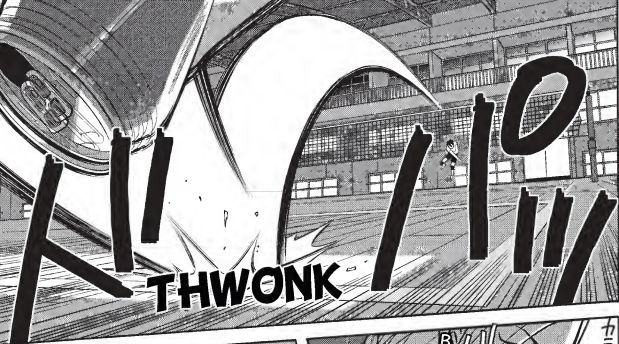
LET'S COVER FOR HER AS BEST WE CAN.

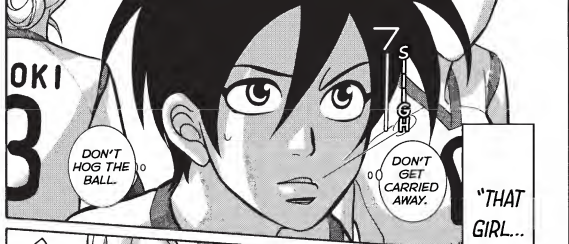


I'M THIRSTY...











HA
HAA!

I'M ON
TEAM
KOYUKI,
MYSELF!

I'LL
FINALLY GET
TO MEET
RUMIKO IN
THE FLESH!

HERE WE
ARE, BOYS.
HAKUUNZAN
ACADEMY
MIDDLE
SCHOOL,
FAMOUS
FOR GIRLS'
VOLLEYBALL.



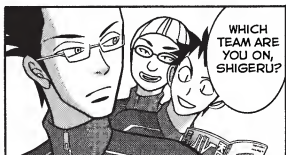
ANYWAY, I'LL
BE SURE TO
CHECK HER
OUT, IF YOU
KNOW WHAT
I MEAN.

OH! SHE
MUST BE
THAT OLD
FRIEND OF
YOURS.

OISHI?
WHO'S
THAT?

FROM
WHAT I
HEAR,
THOUGH,
SHE'S AN
ETERNAL
BENCH-
WARMER.

OF
COURSE,
THERE'S NO
WAY SHE'S
IN RUMIKO'S
LEAGUE.



WHICH
TEAM ARE
YOU ON,
SHIGERU?

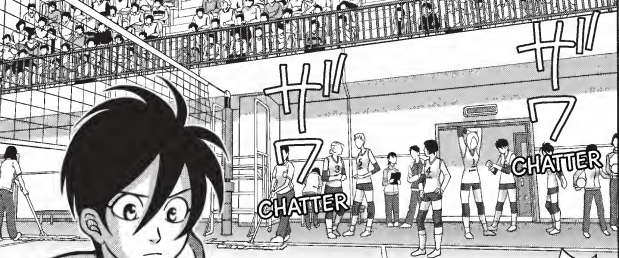


TEAM
OISHI?

Fight 2

Clumsy Restraint





SHH!

NERI-
SA-

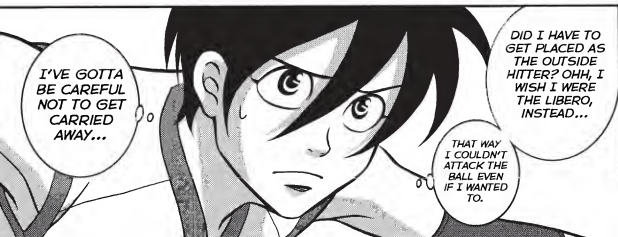
THERE'S
SOMEONE
I DON'T
WANT
SPOTTING
ME.

MFFFT?

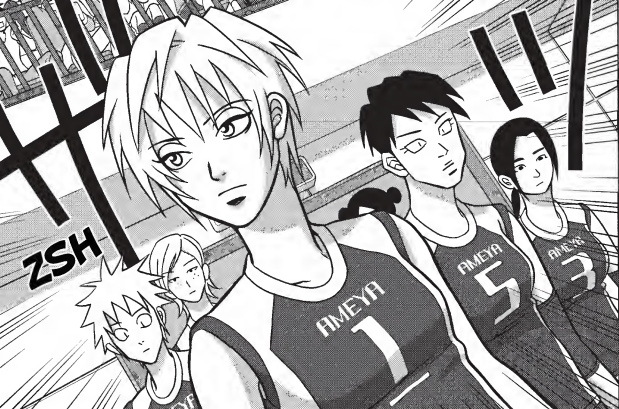


YOU'RE
SO
CUTE!

KOYUKI-
CHAAAAN!







HELLO, STUDENTS OF HAKUUNZAN! WE'RE HONORED TO MEET YOU!

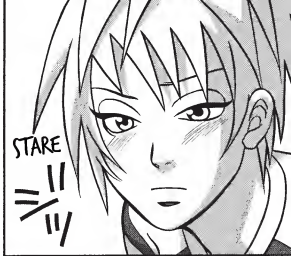
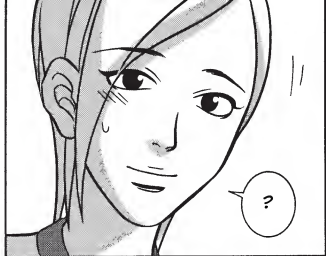


NO WAY, FOR REAL ?!

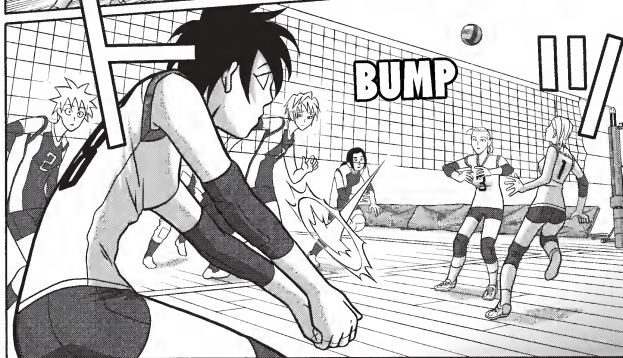


THEY'RE MORE SPORTS-MANLIKE THAN THEY LOOK.

よろしくおながしませう
HERE'S TO A GOOD GAME!

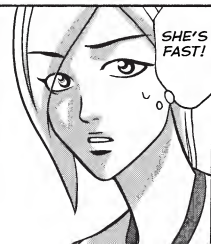
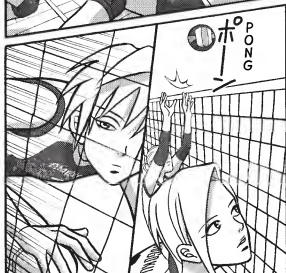
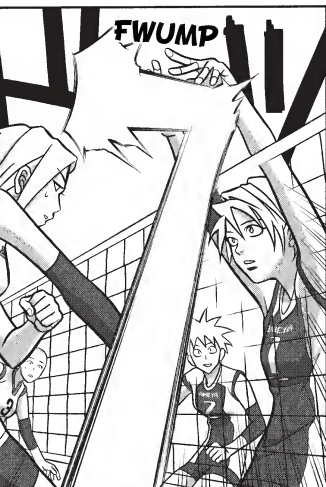




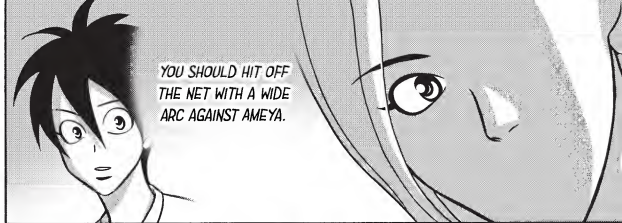


I HAVEN'T
PLAYED IN A
REAL GAME
SINCE MY
SIXTH YEAR OF
ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL, SO
I'M PRETTY
NERVOUS.

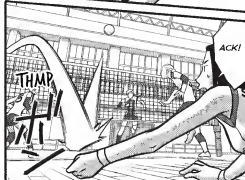
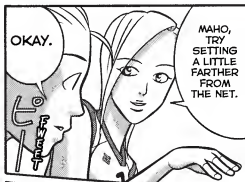
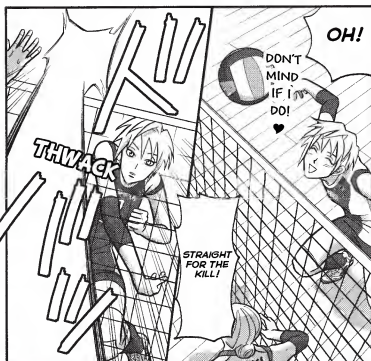
THANK GOD
WE MANAGED
TO RETURN
THAT ONE.

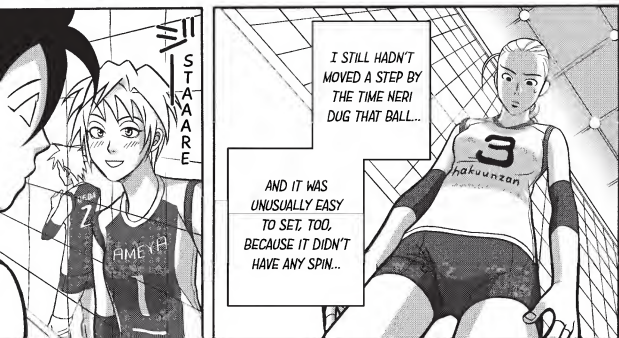
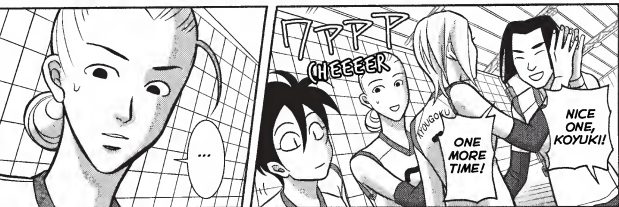
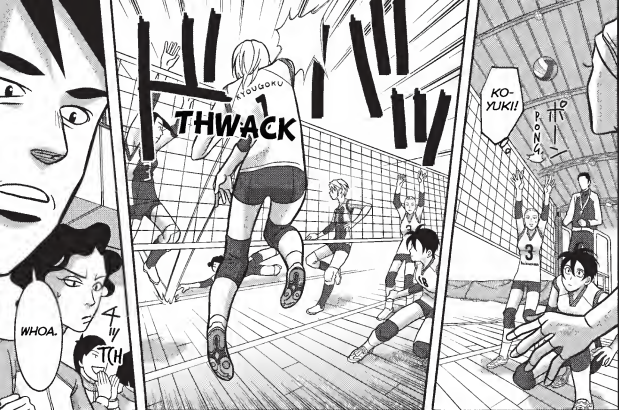


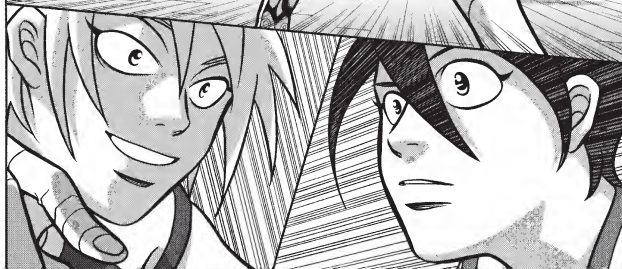
EEEEEE! ♥
I BLOCKED
KOYUKI-
SAN'S
ATTACK!

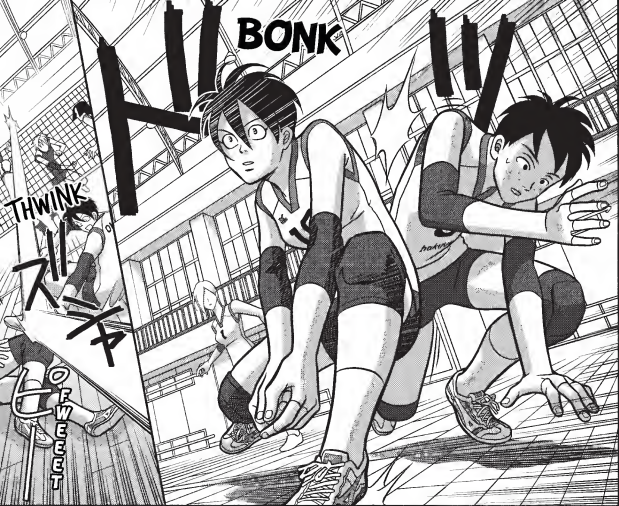


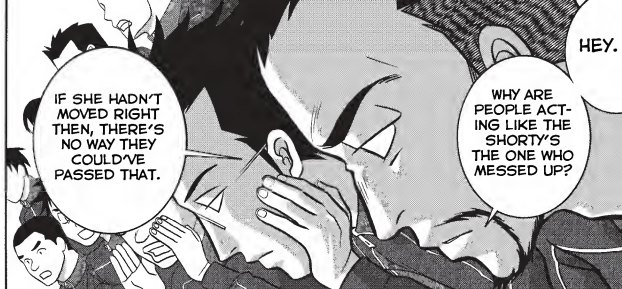
YOU SHOULD HIT OFF
THE NET WITH A WIDE
ARC AGAINST AMEYA.









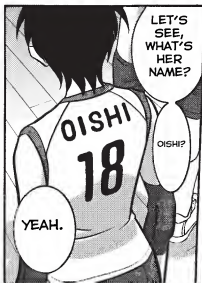


IF SHE HADN'T
MOVED RIGHT
THEN, THERE'S
NO WAY THEY
COULD'VE
PASSED THAT.

HEY.
WHY ARE
PEOPLE ACT-
ING LIKE THE
SHORTY'S
THE ONE WHO
MESSED UP?



NERI
OISHI.



LET'S
SEE,
WHAT'S
HER
NAME?

YEAH.

OISHI?



THAT'S
PROBABLY
HARD TO
UNDERSTAND
FOR MIDDLE
SCHOOLERS.

RIGHT!

CHEER
HER
ON, YOU
GUYS.

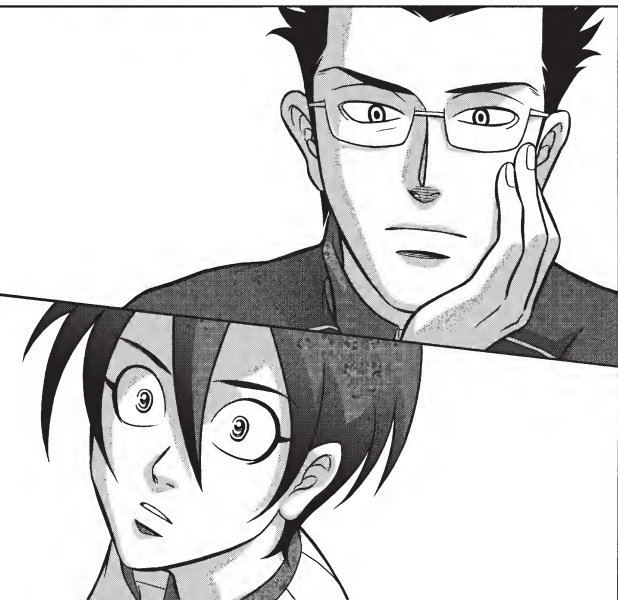
THE
POOR
THING.

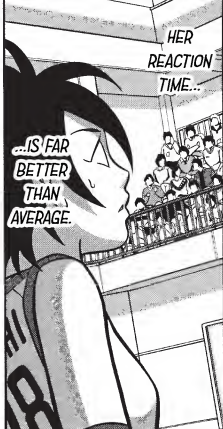
はは
HA
HA

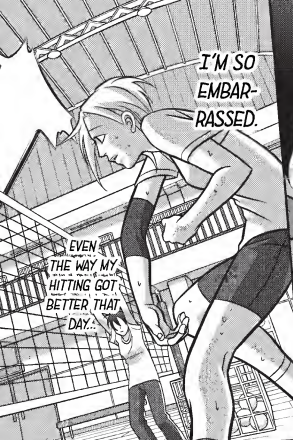


HEEEY!
NERI
OISHI!

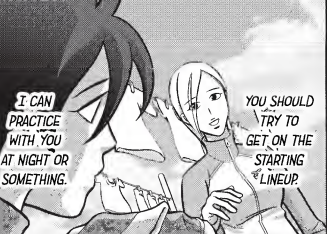
YOU'RE
PRETTY
GOOD!







I'M SO
EMBAR-
RASSED.



I CAN
PRACTICE
WITH YOU
AT NIGHT OR
SOMETHING.



YOU SHOULD
TRY TO
GET ON THE
STARTING
LINEUP.



EVEN
THE WAY MY
HITTING GOT
BETTER THAT
DAY...



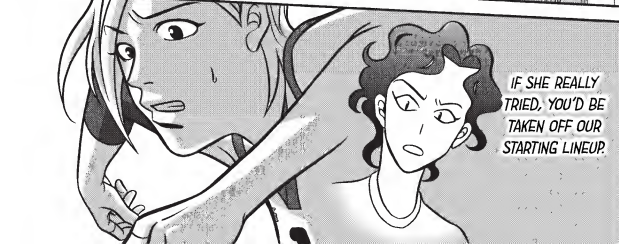
YOU'LL
BE FINE.



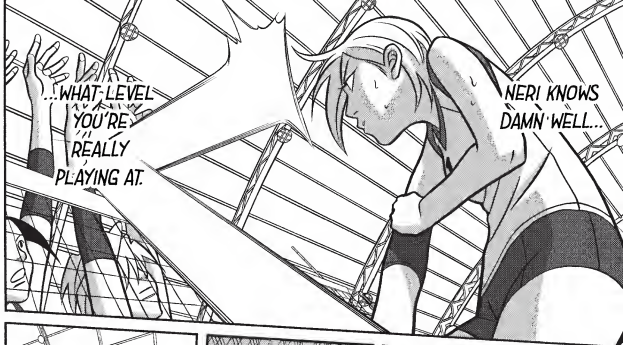
WE'LL
ALL COVER
FOR YOU.



...WAS
THANKS
TO NERI
SETTING
SO WELL!



IF SHE REALLY
TRIED, YOU'D BE
TAKEN OFF OUR
STARTING LINEUP.



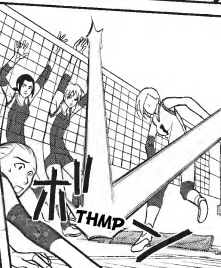
...WHAT LEVEL
YOU'RE
REALLY
PLAYING AT.

NERI KNOWS
DAMN WELL...

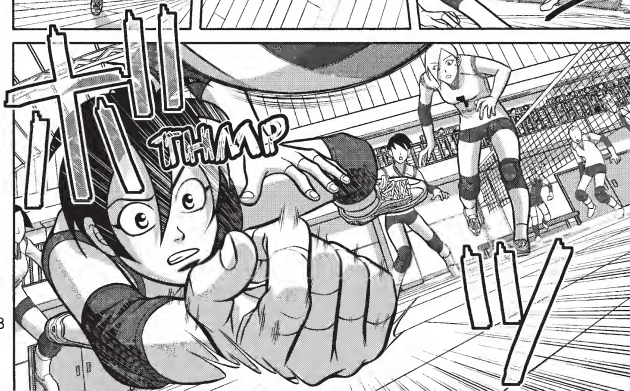


I'M NOT
GONNA
MAKE IT.

THERE'S
NO WAY.



木!!
THMP



THMP

木!!
木!!
木!!



DON'T
GIVE
UP,
GOD
DAMN
IT!

NERI,
NICE—

7
P
CHEER

SHE
GOT
IT!

DAAA
MN!

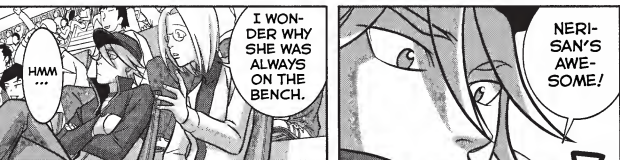


SORRY.

OOPS!

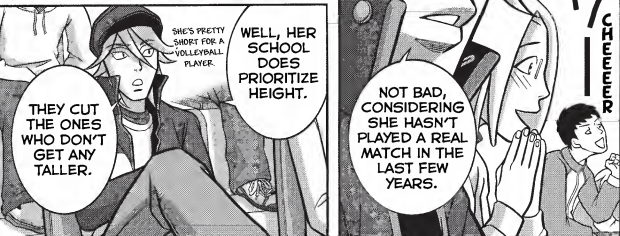
OH...
NEVER
MIND.

HUH?



HMM
...

I WON-
DER WHY
SHE WAS
ALWAYS
ON THE
BENCH.



NERI-
SAN'S
AWES-
SOME!

7
CHEER

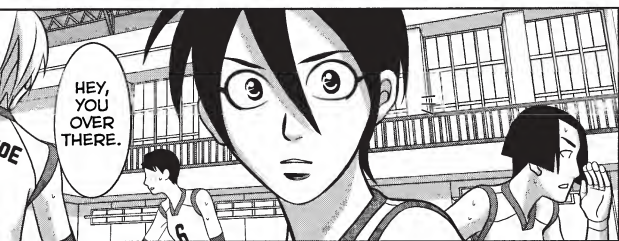
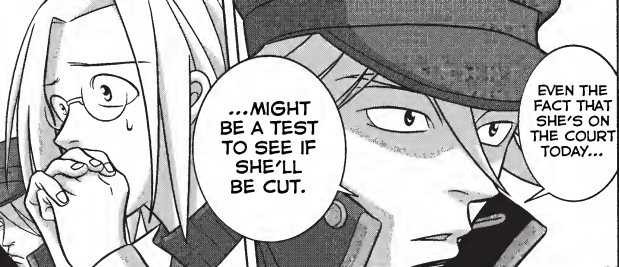
NOT BAD,
CONSIDERING
SHE HASN'T
PLAYED A REAL
MATCH IN THE
LAST FEW
YEARS.

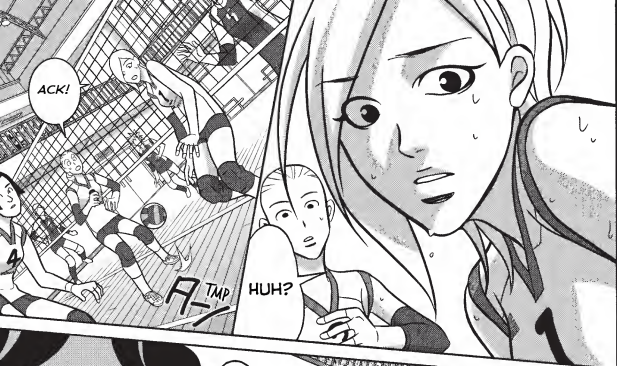
WELL, HER
SCHOOL
DOES
PRIORITIZE
HEIGHT.

SHE'S PRETTY
SHORT FOR A
VOLLEYBALL
PLAYER.

THEY CUT
THE ONES
WHO DON'T
GET ANY
TALLER.







WHAT AM I THINKING?!

SHE'S MY ENEMY!

YOU GUYS WOULDN'T BELIEVE HOW PISSED NERI MUST BE AT HOW SLOW YOU ARE.

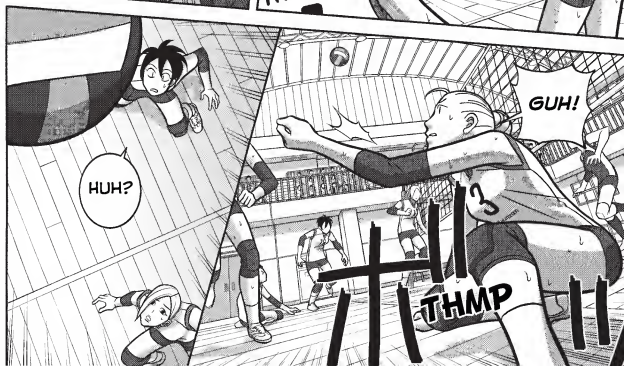
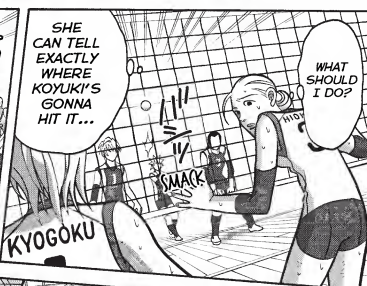
NOW IF SHE'D JUST HURRY UP AND SHOW HERSELF FOR WHAT SHE REALLY IS--TO SMASH RUMIKO!

NERI'S OLD NICKNAME USED TO BE MAD DOG.

DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH! YOU AIN'T SEEN NOTHING YET.

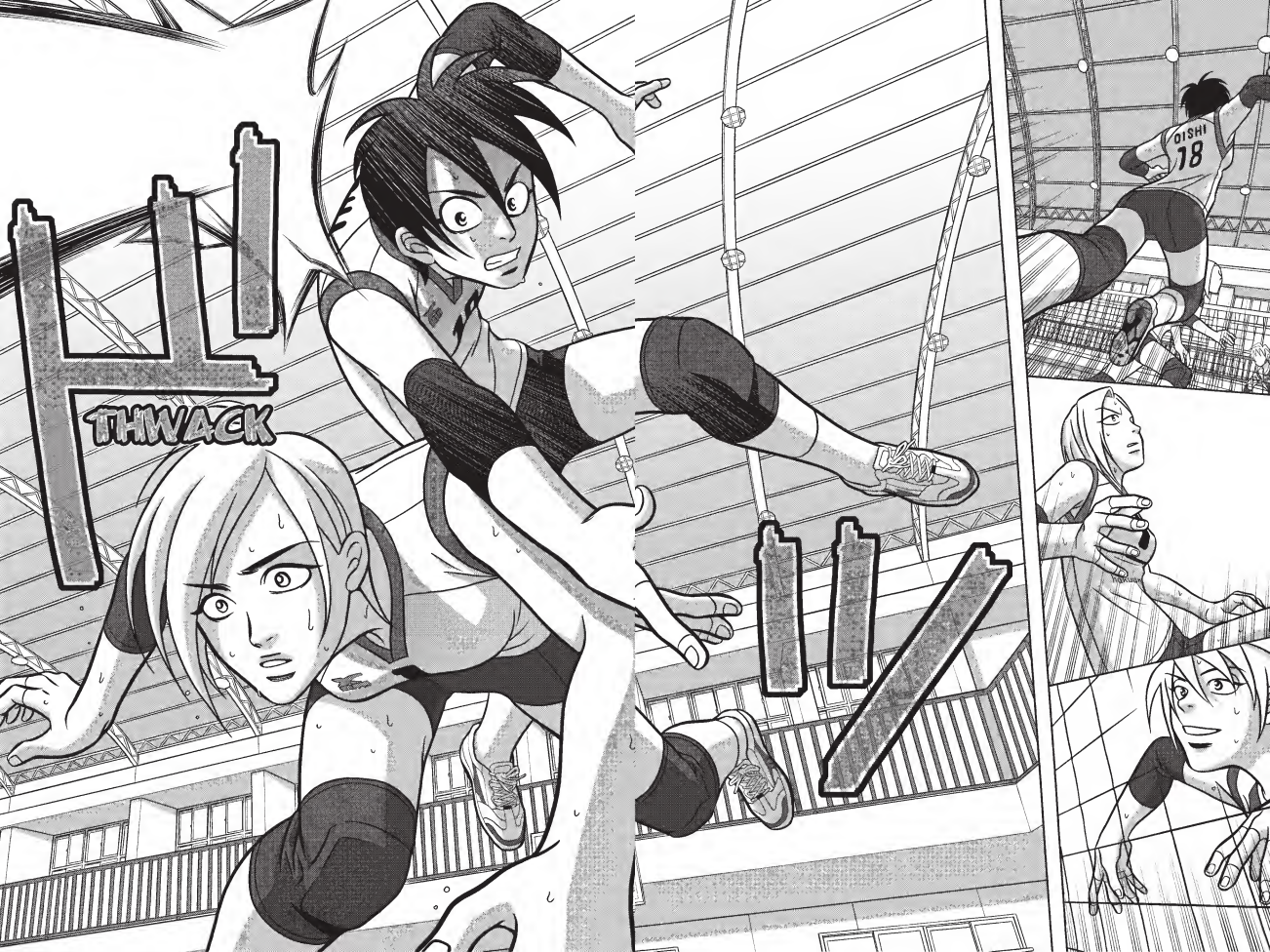
SHE'S REALLY SOFTENED UP SINCE THEN.

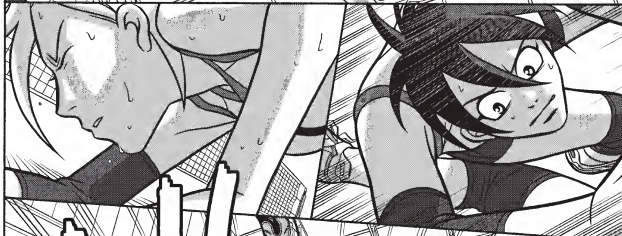
DAMN IT!

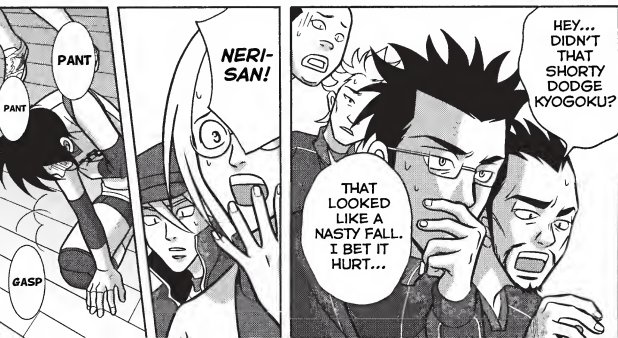
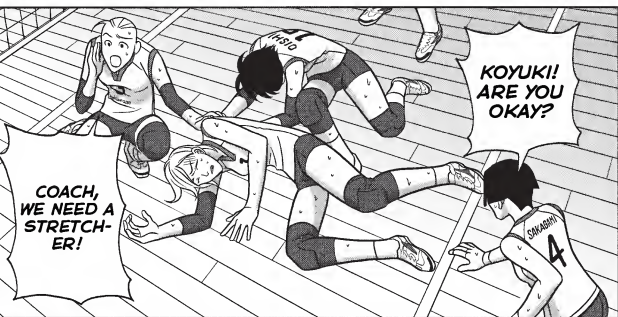


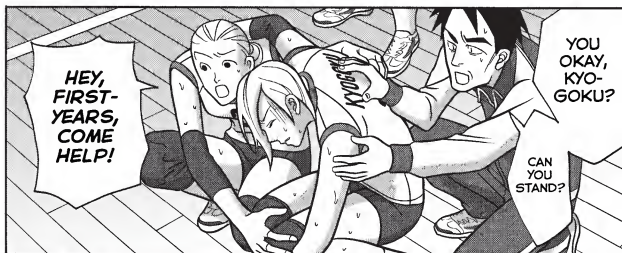


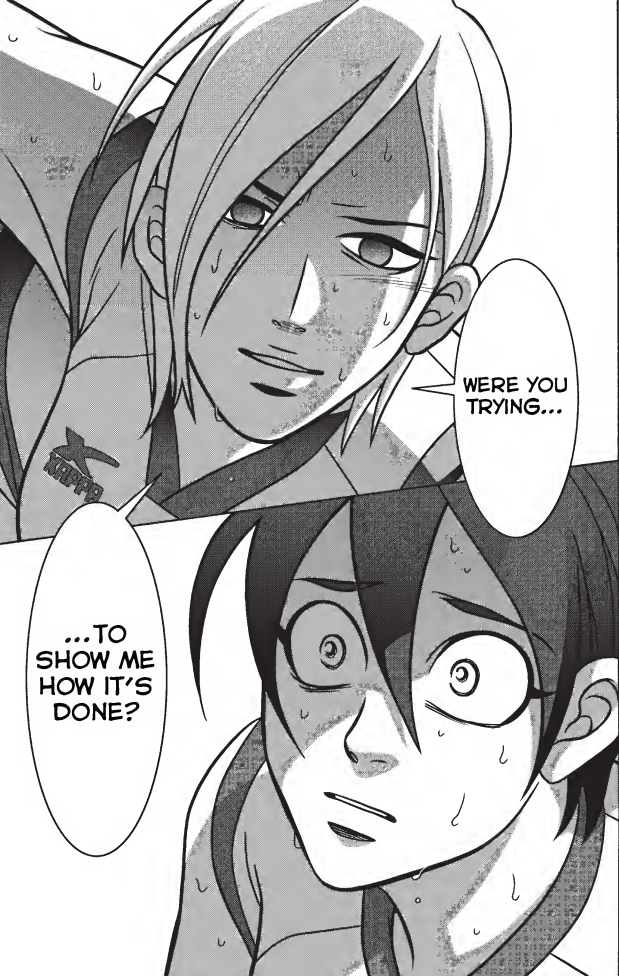
ATTACK!





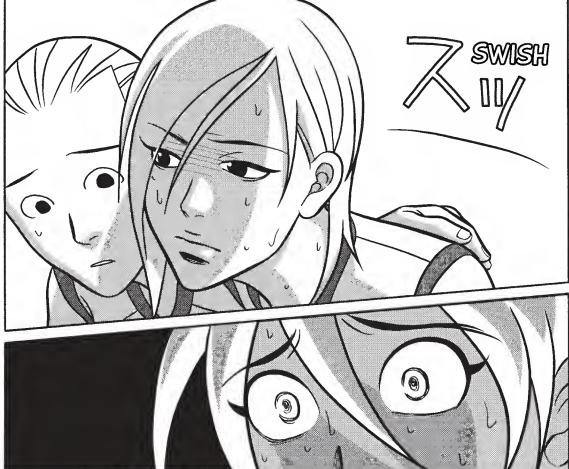


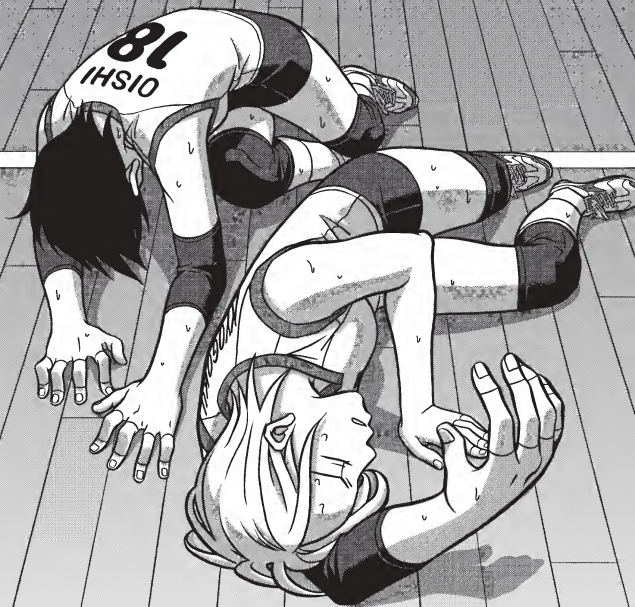




WERE YOU TRYING...

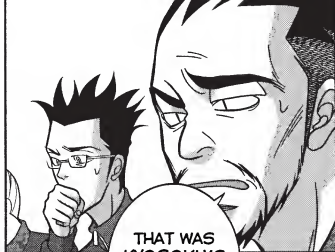
...TO
SHOW ME
HOW IT'S
DONE?

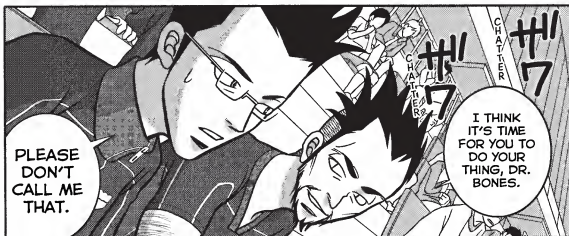




Fight 3

HALF-HEARTED
SOPHISTRY







COME ON,
SHIKISHIMA-KUN!
LOOK HOW
KIND I AM!

CHECK OUT THE
LOVELY LADY
WHO'S LENDING
NERI A HAND EVEN
THOUGH SHE'S
INJURED HERS!



SMACK

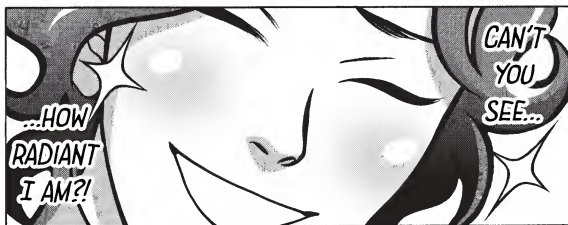
HEY!
YOU
OKAY,
PAL?

OW!



LET'S
GET YOU
TO THE
NURSE'S
OFFICE.

OH,
CHI-
YO.



...HOW
RADIANT
I AM?!

CAN'T
YOU
SEE...



DON'T
GET IT
ON MY
CLOTHES
!!

OH
GOD!

CHIYO...
DON'T
WORRY
ABOUT
ME.

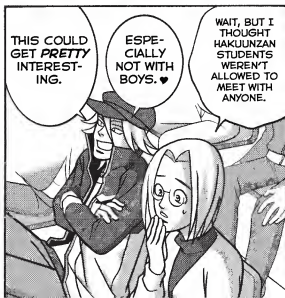
I'M GONNA
GO BARF
IN THE
BATH-
ROOM.

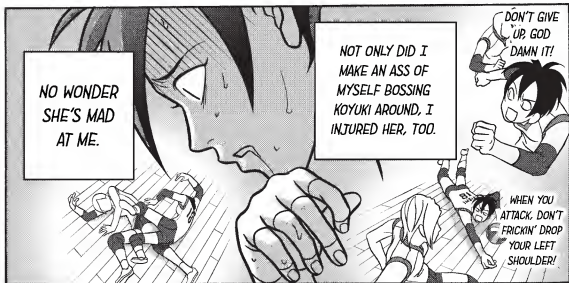
JERK

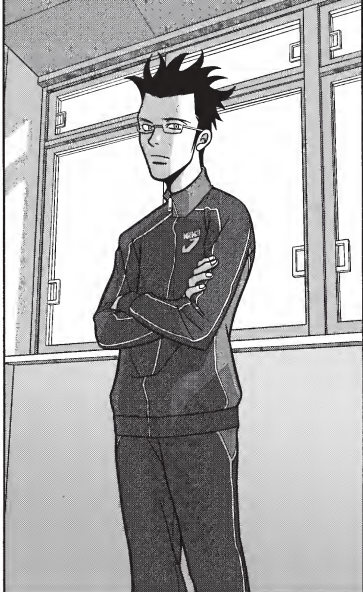
う
3P
HURK

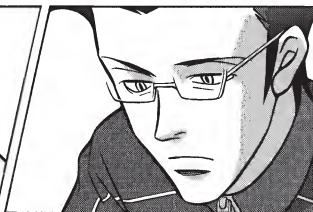
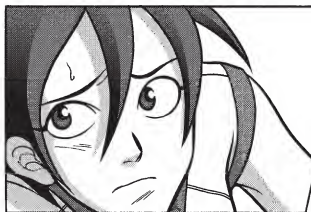
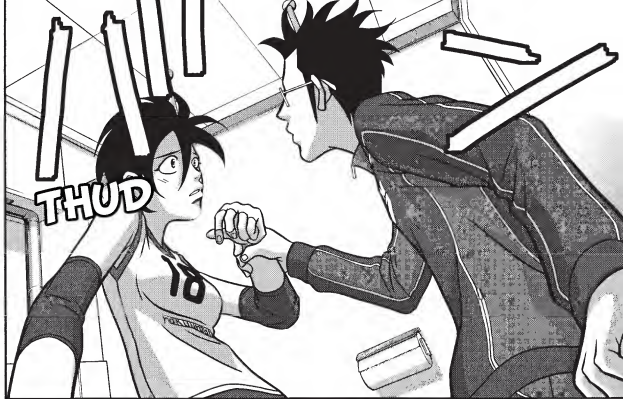


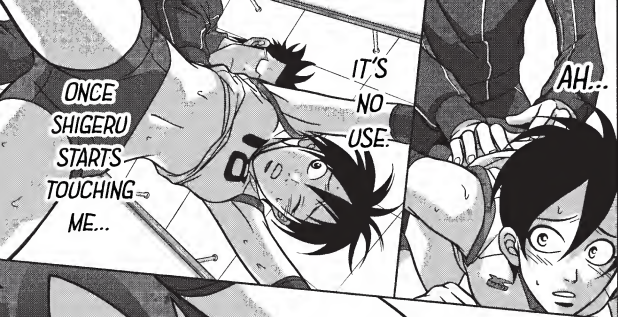
WAIT,
HE'S
GONE
!!!











ONCE
SHIGERU
STARTS
TOUCHING
ME...

IT'S
NO
USE.

AH...



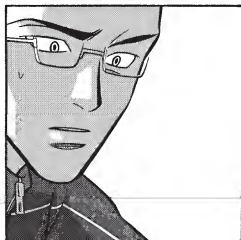
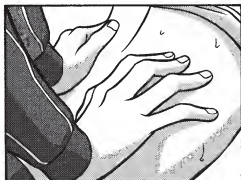
I'VE NEVER
BEEN ABLE
TO FIGHT IT.

...IT JUST
FEELS TOO
GOOD.



IF HE TOLD
ME TO LEAVE
WITH HIM
AGAIN NOW...

...I
MIGHT
CAVE.





GRIT YOUR TEETH FOR A SECOND.

SHI-GERU, THAT HURTS.

AH!

NO.



THE GAME'S OFF, SO I WONDER WHAT WE SHOULD DO—

SHI-GERU'S TAKING A WHILE.

GOD, I'M ABOUT TO WET MYSELF.



...



I HAD NO CLUE, MAN! NOBODY EVER TOLD ME ABOUT IT!

GOD DAMN! ARE YOU GUYS HEARING THIS?!

IS THAT HOW THINGS ARE BETWEEN SHIGERU AND NERI OISHI?!



IS SOMETHING THE MATTER, GENTLEMEN?

OUR SCHOOL'S BOYS' VOLLEYBALL CLUB COULD BE FORBIDDEN FROM PLAYING FOR THIS.

NO WAY. THIS IS BAD. WHAT IF HER COACH OR SOMEONE FINDS THEM?

HA HA

WHAT DO WE DO? SPLIT?

I OUGHTA FOLLOW HIS EXAMPLE!

DOING IT IN THE BATHROOM, THOUGH! THAT SHIGERU'S A REAL DEVIL!

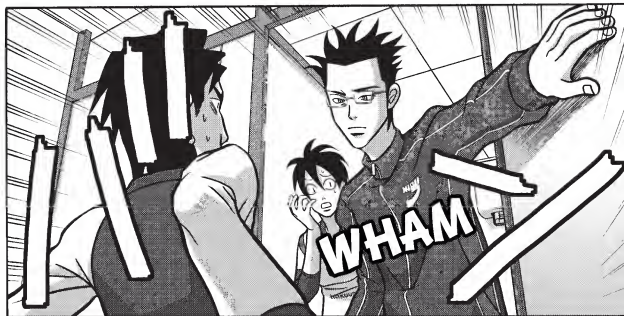




JUST WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING IN
THERE?!

...AND THE
NEXT THING I
KNOW, YOU'RE
HOOKING UP
WITH A BOY
FROM SOME
OTHER SCHOOL
IN THE
BATHROOM!

WHAT
ARE YOU
THINKING?!
YOU INJURE
KYOGOKU...



WHAM



GOT A
PROBLEM
WITH
THAT?

I WAS
MASSAGING
HER BACK.



SPIT
IT
OUT!

WHAT
WERE YOU
DOING?!

**YOU
THINK
SOME
PATHETIC
EXCUSE
LIKE
THAT'S
GONNA
WORK
ON ME?!**

SINCE
WE AREN'T
ALLOWED TO
MEET WITH
ANYONE, WE
ENDED UP IN
HERE...

I HURT MY
BACK IN THE
GAME, AND HE
WAS TAKING
A LOOK AT IT
FOR ME.

COACH,
YOU'VE
GOT IT ALL
WRONG. HE'S
THE SON OF
AN OSTEO-
PATH.

THEN SHOW
ME YOUR
STUDENT
ID!

IT'S TRUE!
SHIKISHIMA
OSTEOPATHY'S
FAMOUS FOR
THEIR SPORTS
MEDICINE.

**QUIT
TRYING
TO COVER
FOR YOUR
FRIEND!**

WE
THOUGHT
THEY
WERE
DOING IT,
TOO.

AWW, MAN!
IT WAS
JUST A
NORMAL
MAS-
SAGE?

HE'S
THE SON OF
THE DOCTOR
THERE.

HMM,
KOKU-
YODANI
HIGH,
HUH?

...LOOKS
LIKE
YOU'RE
TELLING
THE
TRUTH.

HEY!
SPEAK FOR
YOURSELF,
MAN!

BE MY
GUEST.

ANYWAY, I'M
GOING TO BE
REPORTING
THIS TO YOUR
PRINCIPAL.

CAP-
TAIN ...

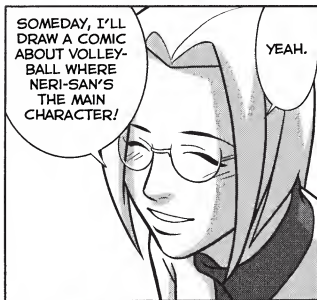
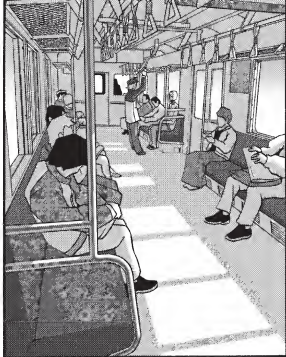
WHAT
WAS
THAT ?!

743
SNAP

JESUS. THAT
SCHOOL'S
JUST FULL OF
ROTTEN
APPLES.









YOU SHOULD
MAKE FRIENDS
WITH HER.



...THAT'S NOT
THE KIND OF
THING I CAN
JUST GET UP
AND GO DO.

BE-
SIDES
...



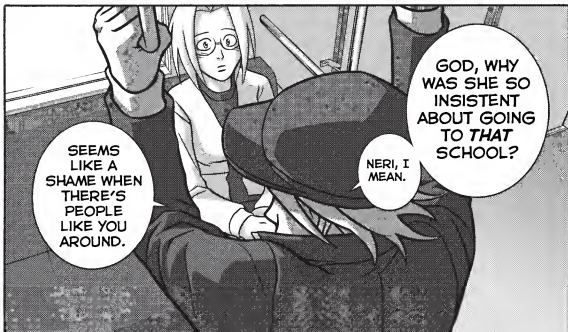
IT'S NOT
THAT! I'M
JUST UN-
WORTHY...

DON'T
WAN-
NA?

I
COUL-
DN'T.

PFT!

YOU
KID-
DING
ME?



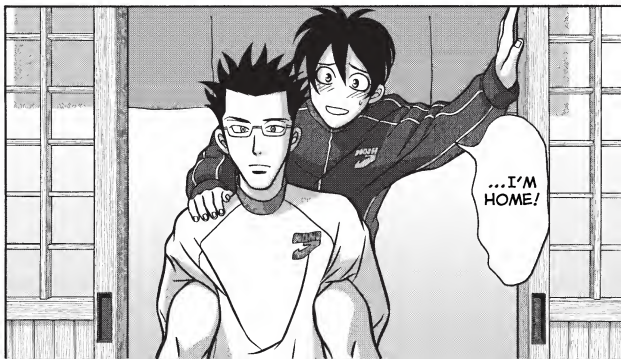
SEEMS
LIKE A
SHAME WHEN
THERE'S
PEOPLE
LIKE YOU
AROUND.

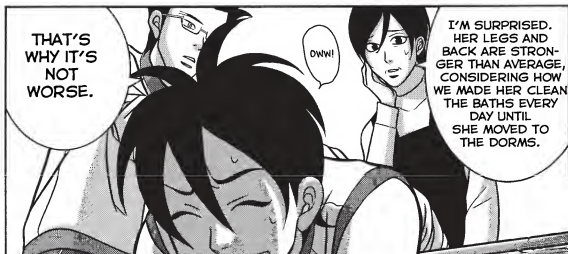
NERI, I
MEAN.

GOD, WHY
WAS SHE SO
INSISTENT
ABOUT GOING
TO *THAT*
SCHOOL?



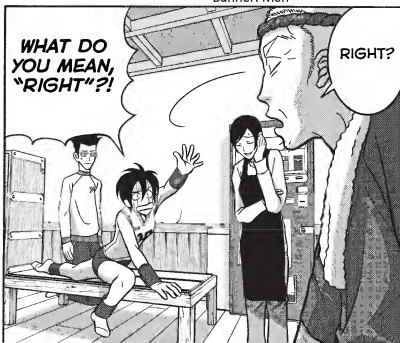
Sign: Oishi Bath House







Banner: Men





OKAY.

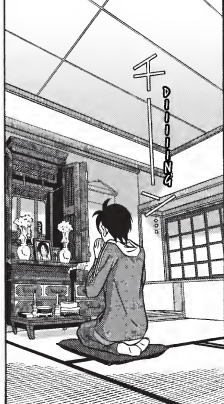
I'M
PLANNING
ON VISITING
HER TO-
MORROW.



SO DON'T
HOLD IT
AGAINST
HIM, OKAY?

AFTER WHAT
HAPPENED
WITH MARI, HE
DIDN'T WANT
TO LET YOU
GO BACK
LIKE THAT.

Y'KNOW,
BLOWING UP
LIKE THAT IS
JUST YOUR
FATHER'S WAY
OF HIDING HIS
FEELINGS.



I
MEAN
...

ALL OF
THIS IS MY
FAULT.

...I'M
NOT MAD
AT HIM.



I'M SURE
THINGS WILL
WORK OUT
ONE WAY OR
ANOTHER.

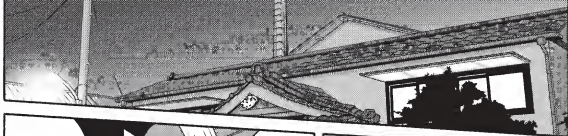
TAKE YOUR
TIME THINKING
ABOUT WHERE
YOU'RE GOING
FROM HERE,
OKAY?



I'D LIKE
TO HEAR
A MORE
THOUGHTFUL
ANSWER.

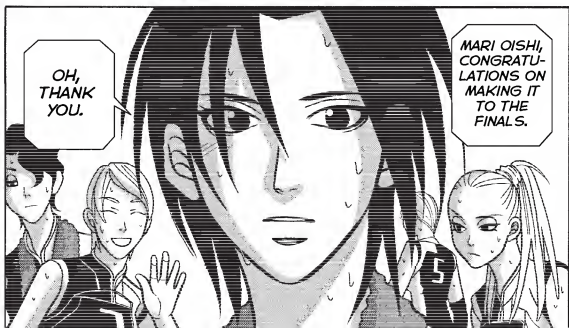
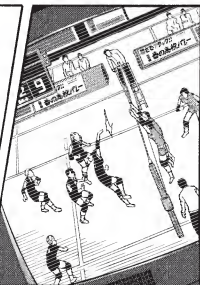
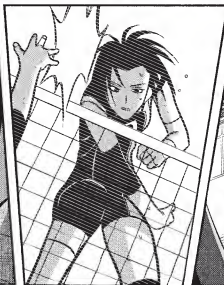
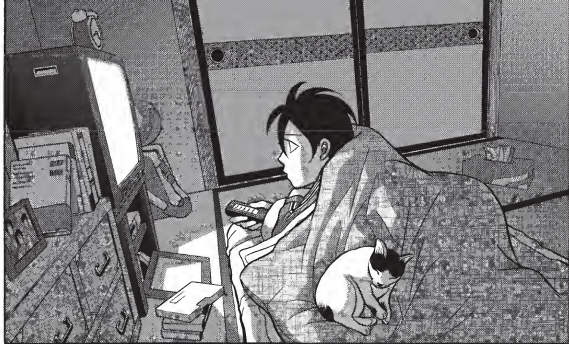
BUT
LEAVING
IT AT THAT
ISN'T ANY
GOOD,
EITHER,
SWEET-
HEART.

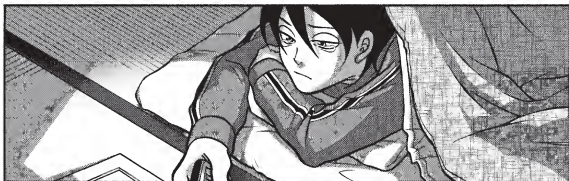
AND HERE I
REMEMBER
HOW YOU
USED
TO BLAME
EVERYTHING
ON OTHER
PEOPLE.



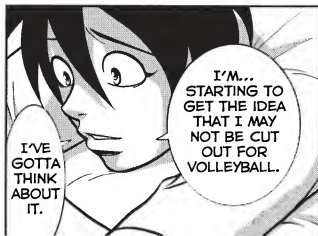
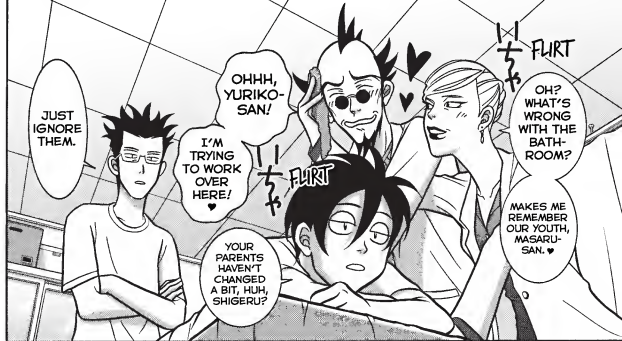
Tapes: Spring High School Volleyball

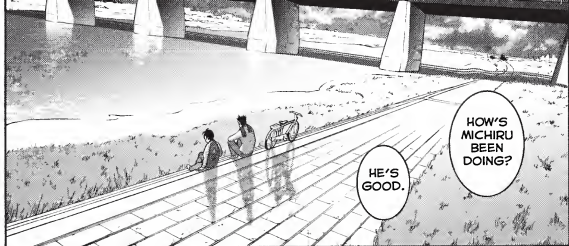












HE'S GOOD.

HOW'S MICHIRU BEEN DOING?



COME AGAIN ?!

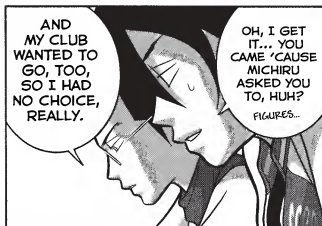
WELL, HE'S BEEN SKIPPING SCHOOL A LOT LATELY.

HE JUST DOESN'T GO, BUT NOT 'CAUSE HE'S A SHUT-IN. HE'S HARDLY EVER HOME.



I GUESS HE QUIT THE VOLLEYBALL CLUB, BUT HE'S PROBABLY STILL PLAYING.

WHAT?! WHY'D HE DO THAT?



AND MY CLUB WANTED TO GO, TOO, SO I HAD NO CHOICE, REALLY.

OH, I GET IT... YOU CAME 'CAUSE MICHIRU ASKED YOU TO, HUH?

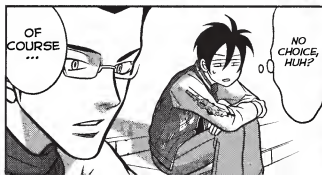
FIGURES...



HE'S NEVER STOPPED WORRYING ABOUT YOU.

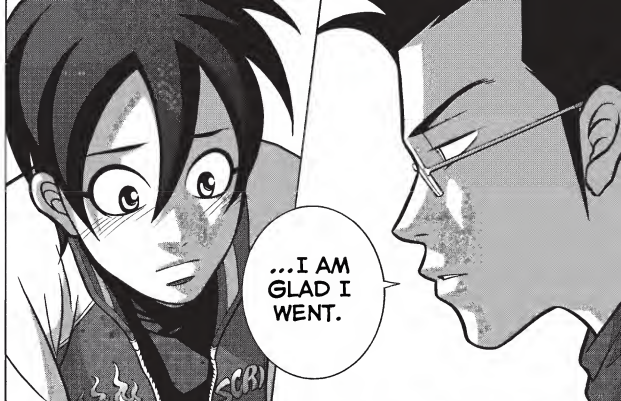
GOD... I MEAN, THAT DOES SOUND LIKE MICHIRU, THOUGH...

HE'S THE ONE WHO TOLD ME TO GO TO YESTERDAY'S GAME.



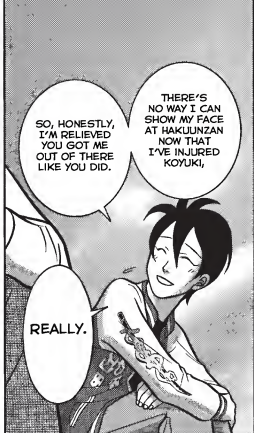
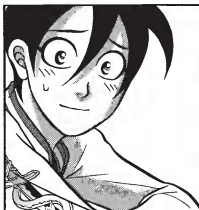
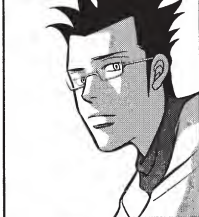
OF COURSE ...

NO CHOICE, HUH?





YOU
KNOW
...



SO, HONESTLY,
I'M RELIEVED
YOU GOT ME
OUT OF THERE
LIKE YOU DID.

THERE'S
NO WAY I CAN
SHOW MY FACE
AT HAKUUNZAN
NOW THAT
I'VE INJURED
KOYUKI,

REALLY.



BUT MAYBE
A CHANGE OF
LOCATION WILL
HELP CHANGE
HOW I FEEL,
TOO.

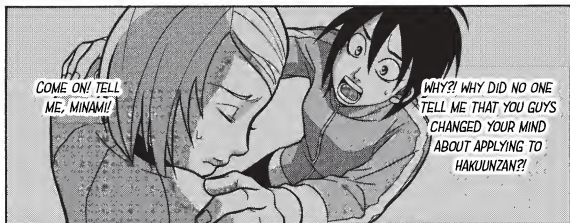
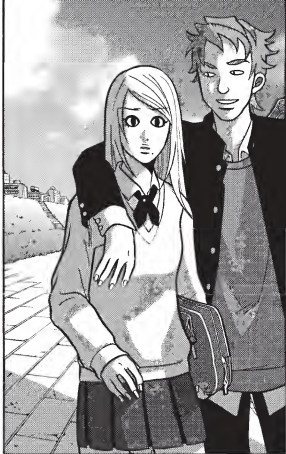
...I STILL
DON'T HAVE
ANY IDEA WHAT
TO DO WITH
MYSELF NOW.



LIKE
...

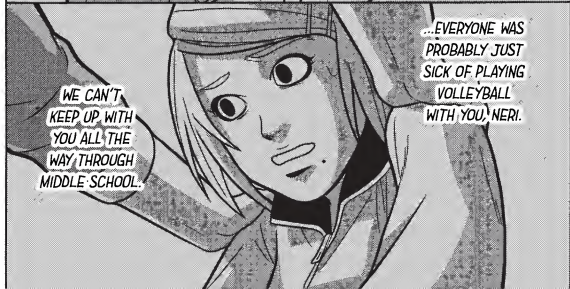
...I COULD
START OVER
AND BE A
NORMAL
GIRL, LIKE
HER.





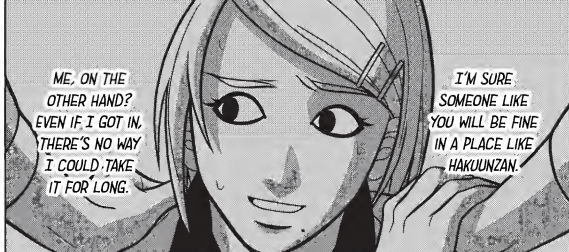
COME ON! TELL
ME, MINAMI!

WHY?! WHY DID NO ONE
TELL ME THAT YOU GUYS
CHANGED YOUR MIND
ABOUT APPLYING TO
HAKUUNZAN?!



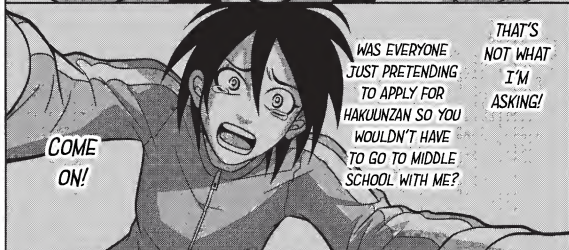
WE CAN'T
KEEP UP WITH
YOU ALL THE
WAY THROUGH
MIDDLE SCHOOL.

...EVERYONE WAS
PROBABLY JUST
SICK OF PLAYING
VOLLEYBALL
WITH YOU, NERI.



ME, ON THE
OTHER HAND?
EVEN IF I GOT IN,
THERE'S NO WAY
I COULD TAKE
IT FOR LONG.

I'M SURE
SOMEONE LIKE
YOU WILL BE FINE
IN A PLACE LIKE
HAKUUNZAN.



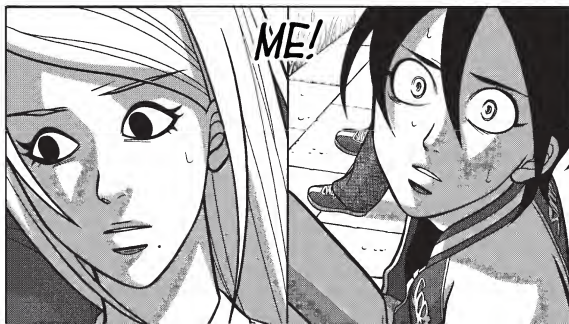
COME
ON!

WAS EVERYONE
JUST PRETENDING
TO APPLY FOR
HAKUUNZAN SO YOU
WOULDN'T HAVE
TO GO TO MIDDLE
SCHOOL WITH ME?

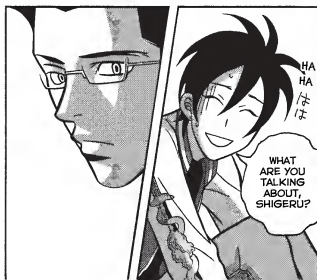
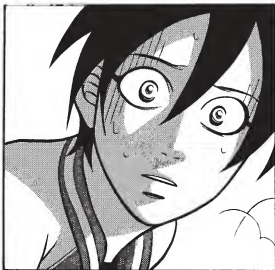
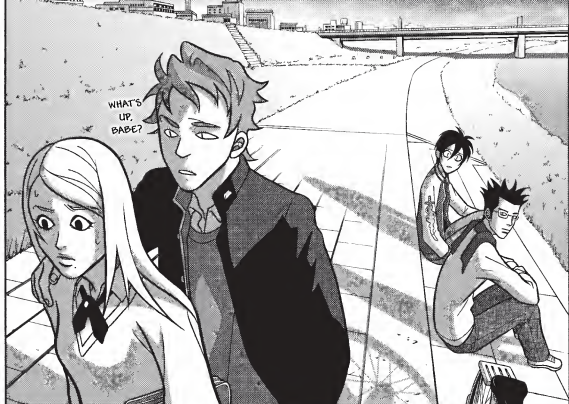
THAT'S
NOT WHAT
I'M
ASKING!

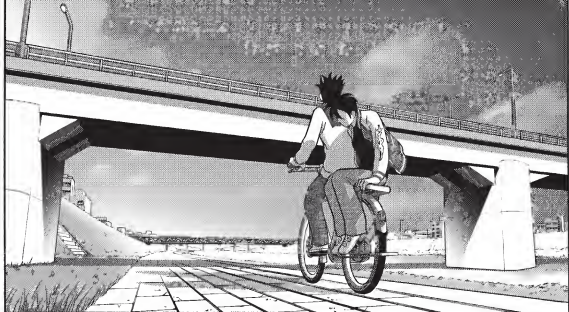


TELL

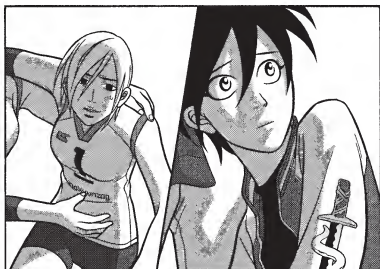


ME!





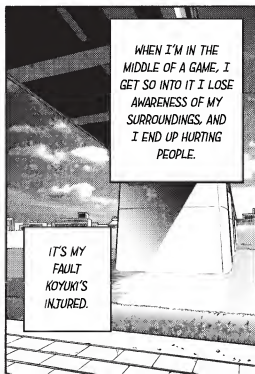
I
BLEW
IT.



I CAN SPEND A
YEAR STUDYING
AND THEN GO TO
SOME NORMAL
HIGH SCHOOL.

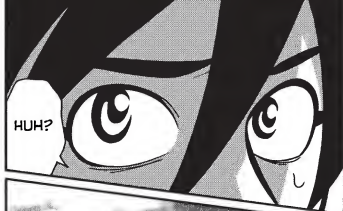
I REALLY
SHOULD QUIT
VOLLEYBALL.

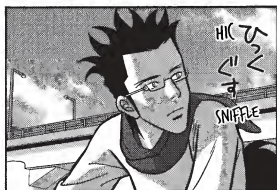
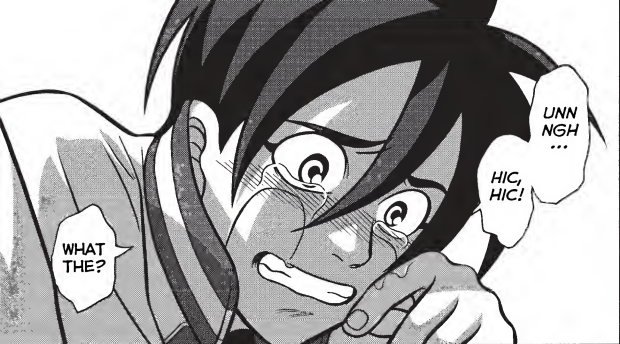
TO BRING
UP A TOPIC
FROM
EARLIER...

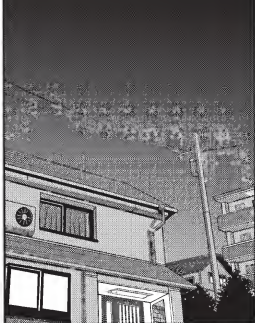


WHEN I'M IN THE
MIDDLE OF A GAME, I
GET SO INTO IT I LOSE
AWARENESS OF MY
SURROUNDINGS, AND
I END UP HURTING
PEOPLE.

IT'S MY
FAULT
KOYUKI'S
INJURED.







THAT'S
RIGHT,

NERI-
SAN.

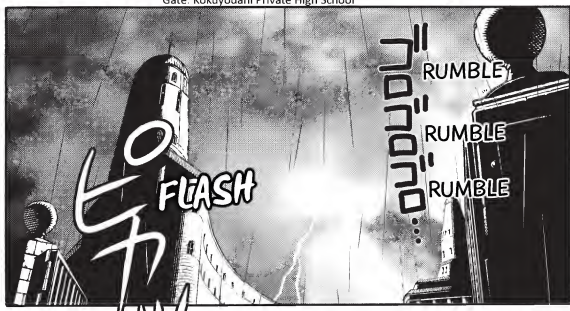
ALL
RIGHT.

I'VE
MADE
UP MY
MIND!

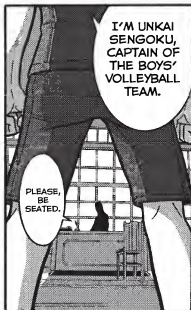
Fight 3, Over



Gate: Kokuyodani Private High School



YES,
SIR.



I'M UNKAI
SENGOKU,
CAPTAIN OF
THE BOYS'
VOLLEYBALL
TEAM.

PLEASE,
BE
SEATED.



COME
IN.

KNOCK
KNOCK



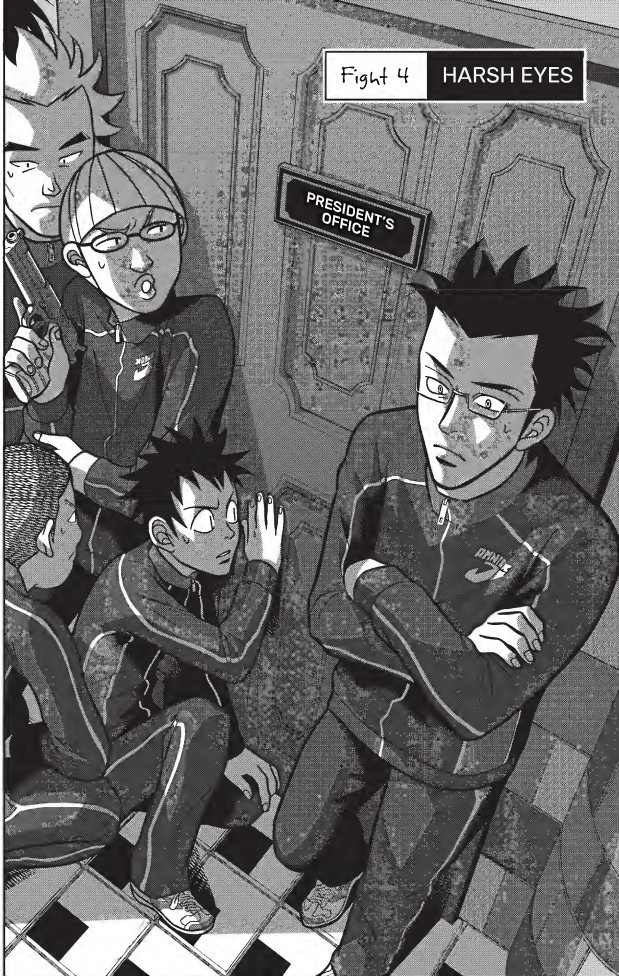
EX-
CUSE
ME.

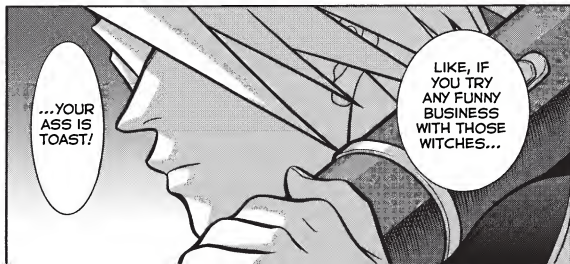
CHACK

Fight 4

HARSH EYES

PRESIDENT'S
OFFICE







APPARENTLY,
THE PRESIDENT'S
ORDERED HIM TO
BE OUR TRAINER
STARTING NEXT
YEAR.

IT'S THAT
SETTER FROM
THE BOYS' TEAM,
SHIKISHIMA. HIS
FAMILY'S FAMOUS
FOR THEIR
OSTEOPATHY
CLINIC.

A
TRAINER,
HUH?



...THE THREE
OF US ARE
GONNA END UP
ON OUR OWN
AGAIN UNLESS
THEY CAN KEEP
UP WITH OUR
COACH.

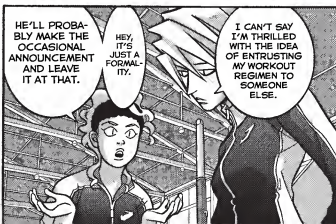
ANYWAY,
EVEN IF WE
CAN FIND A
FEW MORE
PEOPLE...

GOD,
THOUGH,
I'M ITCHING
TO PLAY
ALREADY.



SHE'S BEEN
HOLLERING
ABOUT WANT-
ING ONE OF
THOSE FOR
A WHILE
NOW.

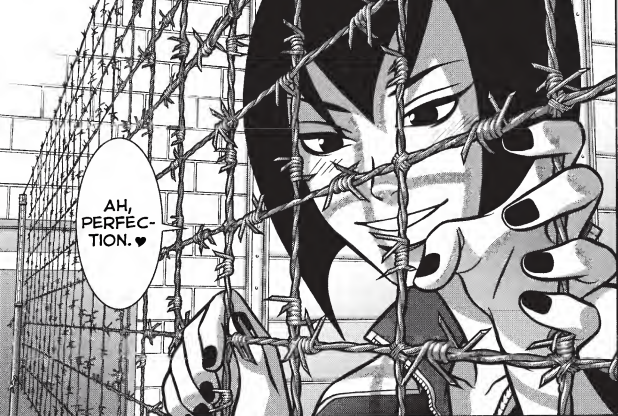
THE POOR
THING'S JUST
AN UNWITTING
VICTIM OF
KYOKO'S
BEGGING.



HE'LL PROBABLY
MAKE THE
OCCASIONAL
ANNOUNCEMENT
AND LEAVE
IT AT THAT.

HEY,
IT'S
JUST A
FORMAL-
ITY.

I CAN'T SAY
I'M THRILLED
WITH THE IDEA
OF ENTRUSTING
MY WORKOUT
REGIMEN TO
SOMEONE
ELSE.



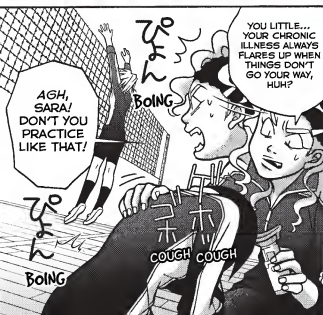
AH,
PERFEC-
TION. ♥



WAIT, KYOKO!
YOU DOOFUS!
WE'LL GET
TORN TO
SHREDS ON
THIS THING!

GAAAAH, THIS
BARBED-WIRE
NET'S SO COOL!
IT'S SO STURDY,
AND LOOK HOW
THE LIGHT
PLAYS OFF
OF IT! ♥

WHACK



AGH,
SARA!
DON'T YOU
PRACTICE
LIKE THAT!

YOU LITTLE...
YOUR CHRONIC
ILLNESS ALWAYS
FLARES UP WHEN
THINGS DON'T
GO YOUR WAY,
HUH?

COUGH COUGH



YOU'RE
SO MEAN,
YUKA. I
STAYED UP
ALL NIGHT
MAKING
THIS.

THROW THIS
THING AWAY! I
WANNA SEE YOU
SLAM DUNK IT
STRAIGHT
IN THE
DUMPSTER!

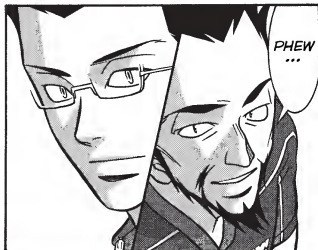
YOU
THINK
WE CAN
PRACTICE
WITH THIS?!

COUGH

COUGH



HEY,
CAP-TAIN.



PHEW
...



DON'T WORRY
ABOUT IT. WHAT
I'M MORE
CONCERNED
ABOUT...

SORRY
ABOUT
ALL THIS.



SHE'S
FINE. MY
DAD'S
TAKING
CARE OF
HER.

...IS
HOW
THAT
NERI
GIRL'S
DOING.



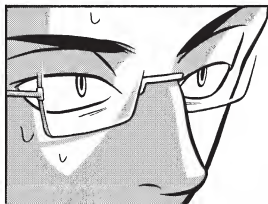
YOU
REALLY
CAME OUT
SWINGING
BACK
THERE.

I BET
YOU FEEL
PRETTY
GUILTY
ABOUT IT
NOW.



SO,
KEEP
THIS TO
YOURSELF...

...BUT WORD
IS THAT
THEY'RE GONNA
BE PRIORITIZING
GIRLS' VOLLEY-
BALL NEXT
YEAR.





Sign: Asahidani Shopping District

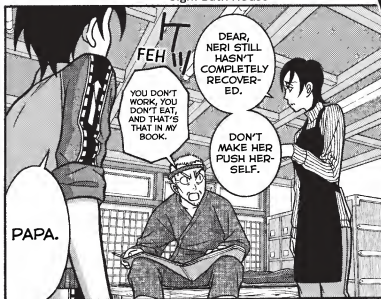




ASKING NERI
TO GO TO
KOKUYO-
DANI...

...WOULD
BE
CRUEL.

Sign: Bath House



FEH!!

YOU DON'T
WORK, YOU
DON'T EAT,
AND THAT'S
THAT IN MY
BOOK.

DEAR,
NERI STILL
HASN'T
COMPLETELY
RECOVER-
ED.

DON'T
MAKE HER
PUSH HER-
SELF.

PAPA.

Banner: Men



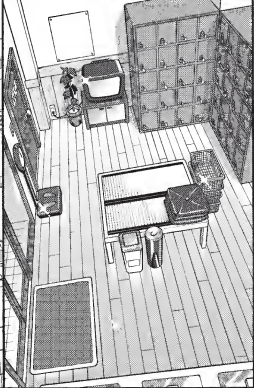
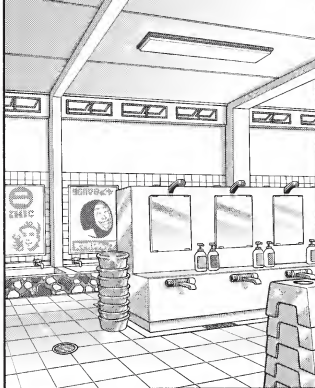
THERE'S
NO WAY
YOU
COULD
GET IT
DONE THAT-

HUH?

I'M
DONE.

WHAT
NOW?





...SO HANG
IN THERE!

I'M GONNA
BUY YOU
SOME ICE
CREAM ON
THE WAY
HOME...



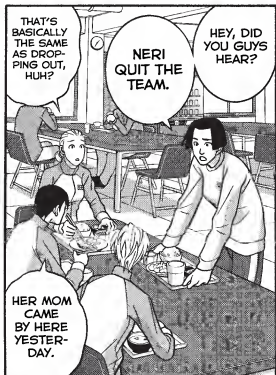
...SHE'D
PROBABLY
REALLY
RATHER
NOT BE
HERE.

THIS HOUSE
IS SO FULL
OF THINGS TO
REMINDE HER
OF HER
SISTER...

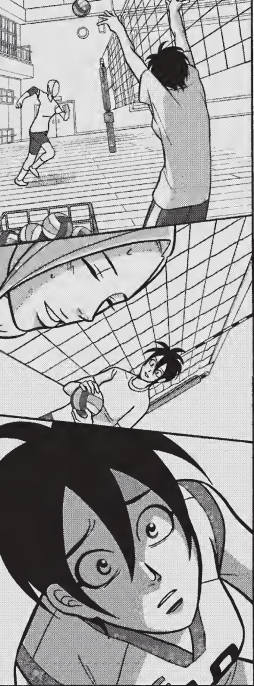


WHAT
ARE WE
SUPPOSED
TO DO? THE
KIDS LOVE
IT.

MAYBE
PUTTING
IN AN ICE
CREAM
FREEZER
WAS A BAD
IDEA.









I WONDER
IF KOYUKI'S
LEG IS
OKAY...

I
COULD
CALL
HER...

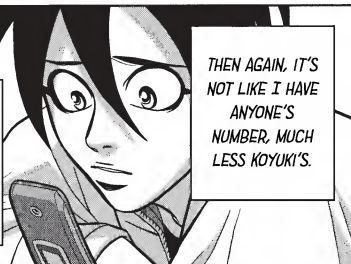


PURR
PURR

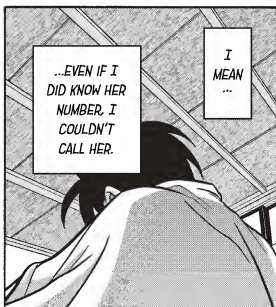


GIVE IT TO
SHIKISHIMA-
KUN!

WAIT. COME TO
THINK OF IT, I THINK
CHIYO TOOK MY
PHONE AND PUT
HERS IN ONCE...



THEN AGAIN, IT'S
NOT LIKE I HAVE
ANYONE'S
NUMBER, MUCH
LESS KOYUKI'S.



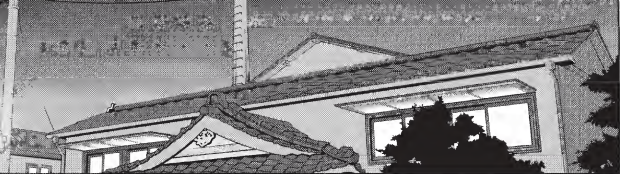
...EVEN IF I
DID KNOW HER
NUMBER, I
COULDN'T
CALL HER.

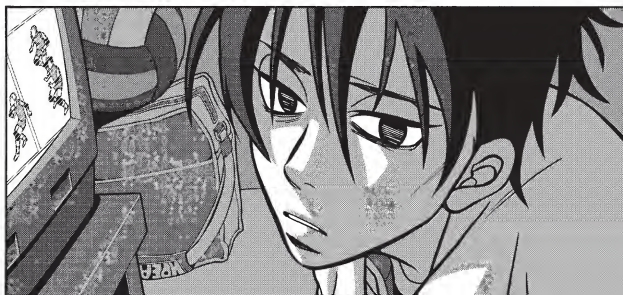
I
MEAN
...

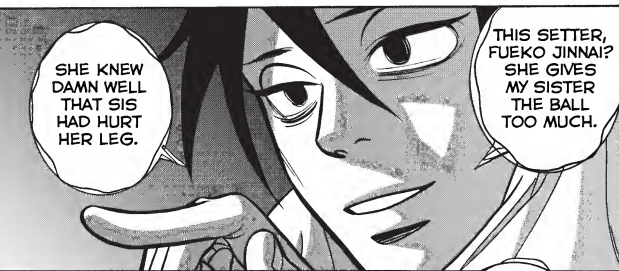
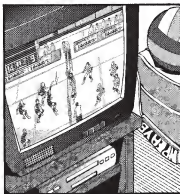


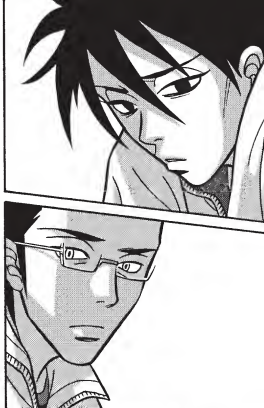
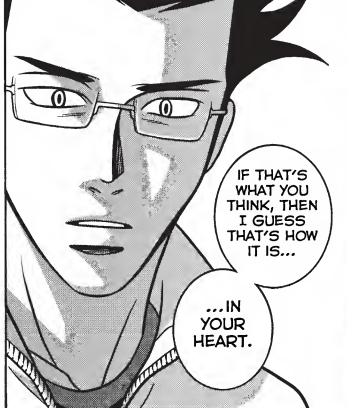
I DID DECIDE
NOT TO MAKE
ANY FRIENDS,
AFTER ALL.

MAKES
SENSE,
I
GUESS.











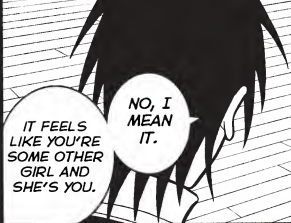
I SAW
THEM.

I
KNOW
ALL
ABOUT
IT.

I SAW SHIGERU
AND MY SISTER
KISSING.

HEY...





IT FEELS
LIKE YOU'RE
SOME OTHER
GIRL AND
SHE'S YOU.

NO, I
MEAN
IT.



WHAAAT?
YOU'RE
LYING!



THERE'S NO
OTHER WAY
TO MELT INTO
EACH OTHER
LIKE THAT.



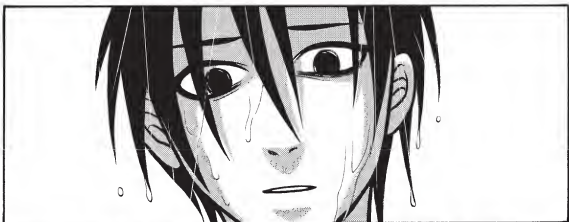
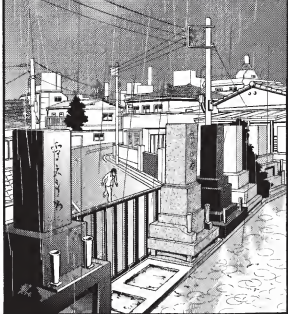
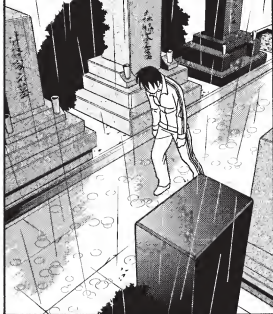
THE PEOPLE,
THE NET, THE
COURT, AND
THE BALL...

...ALL
START TO
SEEM LIKE
A PART OF
YOU.



...I'M NEVER
GOING TO
KNOW THAT
FEELING, SIS.

IN
ALL MY
LIFE...



Grave: Oishi Family Grave



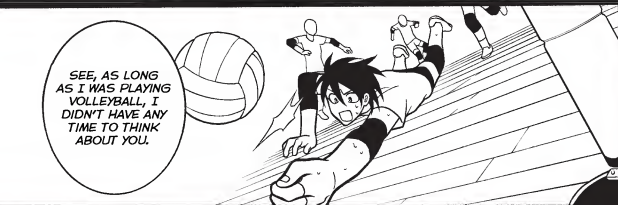


...I WAS SO LONELY, I STARTED PLAYING VOLLEYBALL WITH SHIGERU AND THE GANG ALL THE TIME.



HEY, SIS. LISTEN...

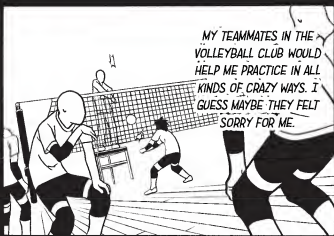
...AFTER YOU DIED...



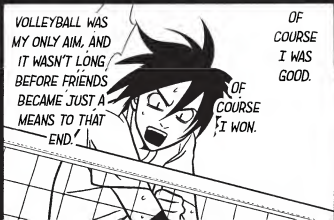
SEE, AS LONG AS I WAS PLAYING VOLLEYBALL, I DIDN'T HAVE ANY TIME TO THINK ABOUT YOU.



I WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO DIDN'T REALIZE HOW MESSED UP I'D GOTTEN.



MY TEAMMATES IN THE VOLLEYBALL CLUB WOULD HELP ME PRACTICE IN ALL KINDS OF CRAZY WAYS. I GUESS MAYBE THEY FELT SORRY FOR ME.

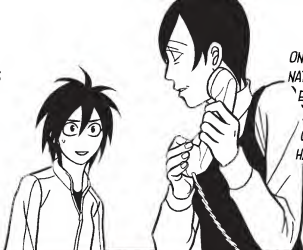


VOLLEYBALL WAS MY ONLY AIM, AND IT WASN'T LONG BEFORE FRIENDS BECAME JUST A MEANS TO THAT END.

OF COURSE I WAS GOOD.

OF COURSE I WON.

I JUST WANTED TO
PLAY VOLLEYBALL AS
MUCH AS I COULD,
SO I LEAPED AT
THE OPPORTUNITY.



ONCE WE WON IN THE
NATIONAL SEMIFINALS,
EVERYONE ON OUR
STARTING LINEUP
GOT SCOUTED BY
HAKUUNZAN MIDDLE
SCHOOL.

BUT...



...AND,
SOMEDAY, WE'D
ALL WIN THE
SPRING HIGH-
SCHOOL TOURNA-
MENT TOGETHER.



ALL OF US
SWORE THAT
WE'D GO IN
FOR THE
INTERVIEW
WITH
HAKUUNZAN...

I DON'T
SEE ANY
OF YOUR
FRIENDS
HERE,
NERI.



THANK
YOU.

PLEASE,
HAVE A
SEAT.

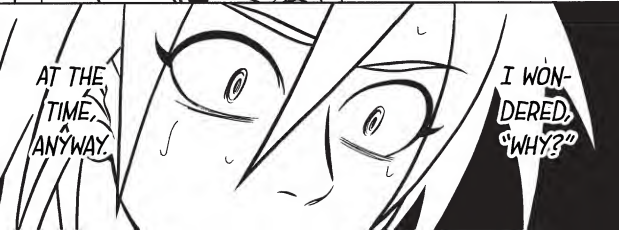


ALL
RIGHT.

COME
IN,
OISHI-
SAN.

LET'S
GO,
NERI.





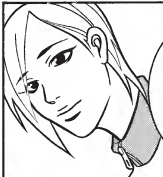


ALL I COULD
DO AT THAT
POINT WAS RUN
AWAY FROM
EVERYONE BY
GOING TO
HAKUUNZAN.



THAT I WAS
SO OBSESSED
WITH VOLLEYBALL
THAT I DIDN'T
CARE ABOUT
MY TEAMMATES'
FEELINGS.

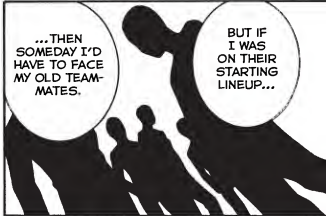
LATER,
I FINALLY
REALIZED
THAT THEY
HATED ME
'CAUSE
I'M AN
ASS.



SO, I TRIED
TO JUST
CHOKE IT ALL
BACK AND
SQUEAK
BY WITHOUT
GETTING
CUT.



BUT
NOW, I'VE
BLOWN IT
AGAIN.

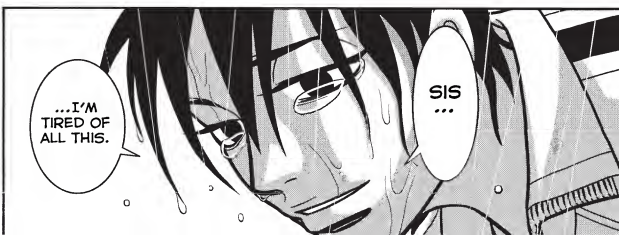


...THEN
SOMEDAY I'D
HAVE TO FACE
MY OLD TEAM-
MATES.

BUT IF
I WAS
ON THEIR
STARTING
LINEUP...

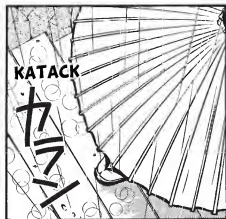


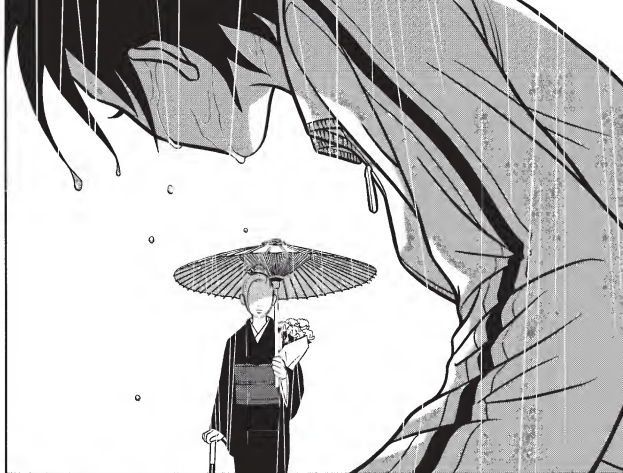
I'M MORE
SCARED OF
LOOKING THEM
IN THE EYES
THAN ANYTHING
ELSE.

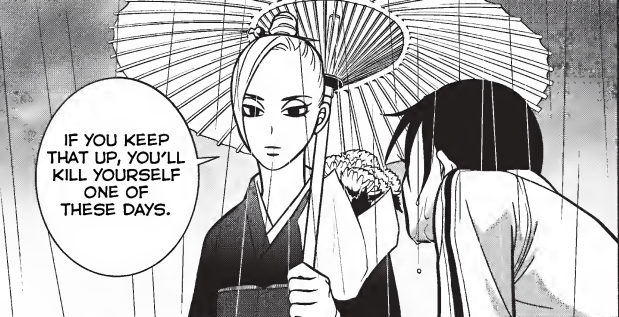


...I'M
TIRED OF
ALL THIS.

SIS
...







IF YOU KEEP
THAT UP, YOU'LL
KILL YOURSELF
ONE OF
THESE DAYS.



JUST...
WHO
ARE
YOU?!



H-
HOW'D
YOU
KNOW
THAT?

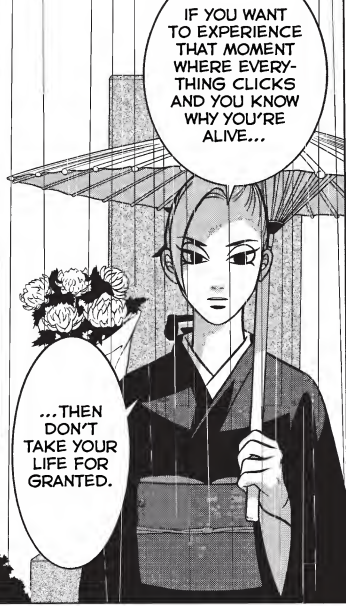


I HEAR YOU
QUIT THE
HAKUUNZAN
VOLLEYBALL
CLUB.



...DON'T YOU
WANT THE
CHANCE TO LAY
EYES ON THE
SAME COURT
YOUR SISTER
DID IN THE LAST
HOURS OF HER
LIFE?

OISHI...

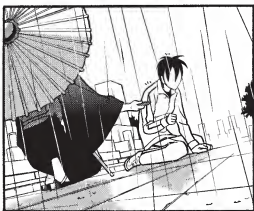
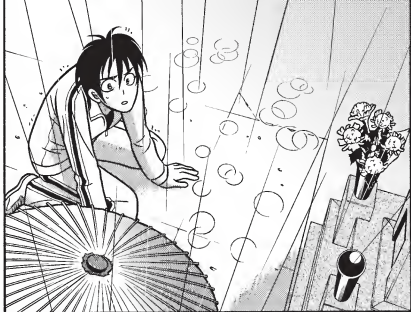
A black and white manga panel showing a woman with short hair, wearing a dark kimono with a light-colored sash. She holds a traditional Japanese umbrella (wagasa) over her head and a bouquet of flowers in her left hand. She has a serious expression. The background consists of vertical lines, suggesting rain or a stylized setting.

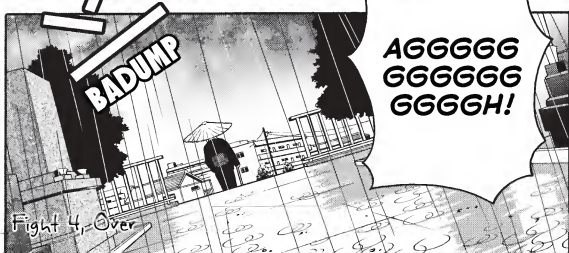
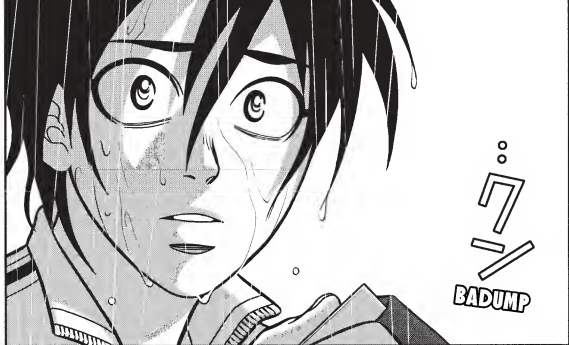
IF YOU WANT
TO EXPERIENCE
THAT MOMENT
WHERE EVERY-
THING CLICKS
AND YOU KNOW
WHY YOU'RE
ALIVE...

...THEN
DON'T
TAKE YOUR
LIFE FOR
GRANTED.



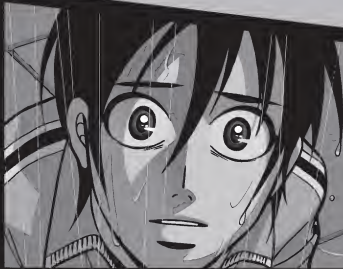
LIVE LIKE
THESE
FLOWERS
DO.





A close-up of a woman with dark hair tied back, looking down with a somber expression. She is holding a dark umbrella over her head. Rain is falling around her.

IF YOU KEEP THAT
UP, YOU'LL KILL
YOURSELF ONE OF
THESE DAYS.

A man is kneeling on a wet street in the rain, looking down at a small object in his hands. In the background, a person with an umbrella walks away. The scene is set in an urban environment with buildings and a fence.

DON'T TAKE
LIFE FOR
GRANTED.

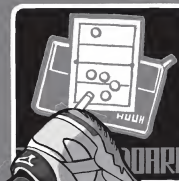
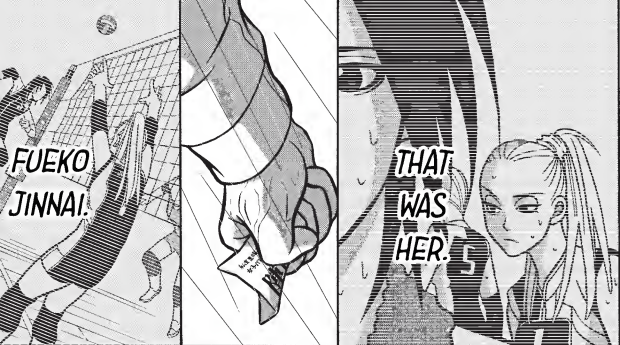


Figure 5 A WEIGHTY UNDERSTANDING

Shojo FIGHT!





FUEKO
JINNAI.

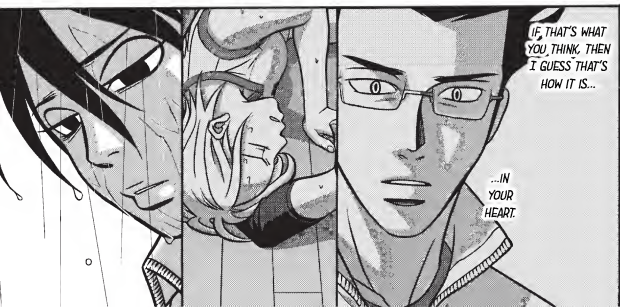
THAT
WAS
HER.

Card: Fue



...THEN SHE
MIGHT NOT
HAVE...!

IF MY SISTER
HADN'T KEPT
HITTING THE
BALLS SHE
SET...



IF THAT'S WHAT
YOU THINK, THEN
I GUESS THAT'S
HOW IT IS...

...IN
YOUR
HEART.



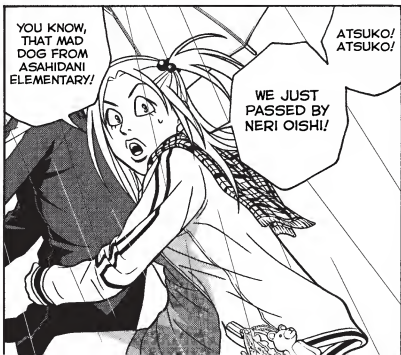
...MAYBE
I'M NOT
SO DIFF-
FERENT.

HELL...



OISHI?

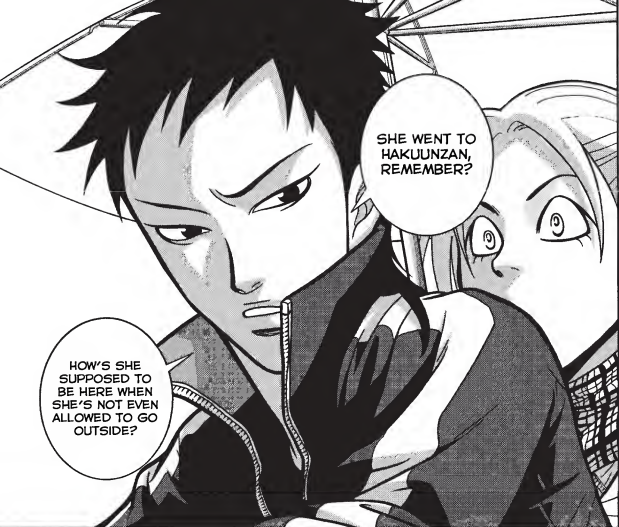
IT
COULDN'T
HAVE
BEEN
HER.



YOU KNOW,
THAT MAD
DOG FROM
ASAHDANI
ELEMENTARY!

ATSUKO!
ATSUKO!

WE JUST
PASSED BY
NERI OISHI!



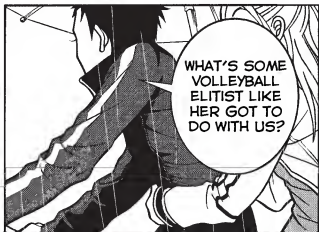
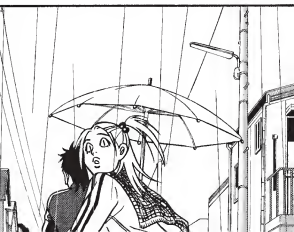
SHE WENT TO
HAKUUNZAN,
REMEMBER?

HOW'S SHE
SUPPOSED TO
BE HERE WHEN
SHE'S NOT EVEN
ALLOWED TO GO
OUTSIDE?



BESIDES,
EVEN IF IT
WAS OISHI,
WHO GIVES
A SHIT?

I
GUESS
YOU'RE
RIGHT.



WHAT'S SOME
VOLLEYBALL
ELITIST LIKE
HER GOT TO
DO WITH US?

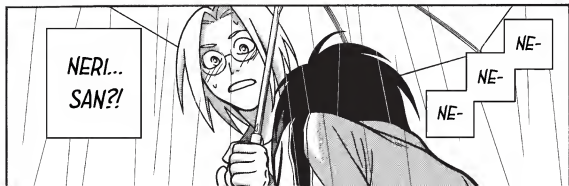
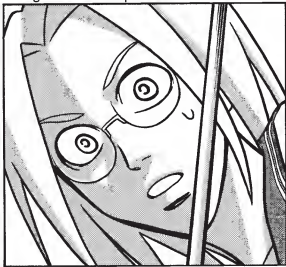


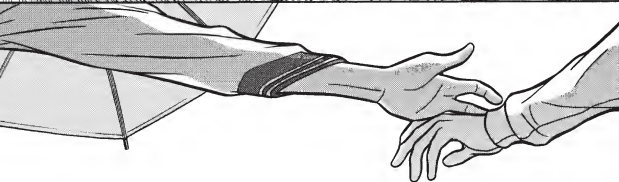
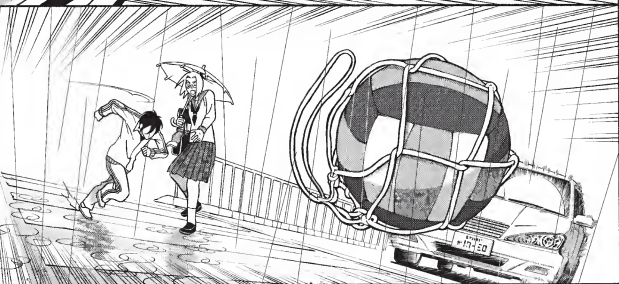
Sign: Murakami Sports

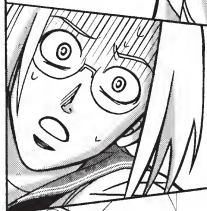


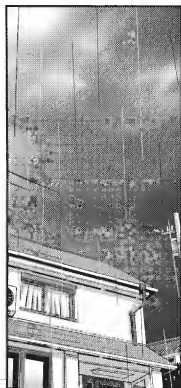
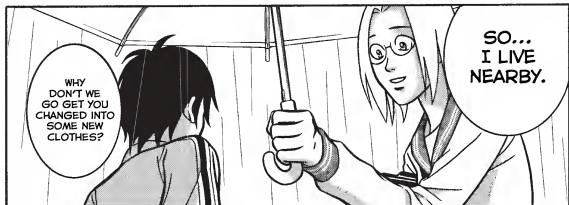
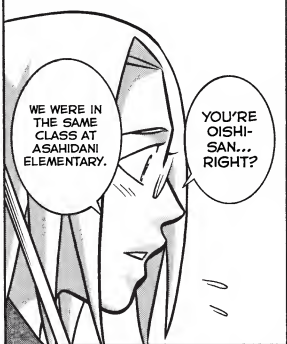


Sign: Murakami Sports











I CAN'T
BELIEVE NERI-
SAN'S IN MY
BEDROOM...

OHHH GOD,
THIS IS
SORT OF
WEIRD.

HEY.



I'M CURIOUS
WHAT PEOPLE
SPEND THEIR
TIME DOING.



NOPE,
JUST THE GOING-
HOME CLUB.

ARE YOU IN
ANY CLUBS?

YES?



HUH?

WHAT'S IT
FEEL LIKE
NOT TO BE
IN ANY
CLUBS?



YEAH!

IS IT
FUN?

HMM
...



...SO I
READ THEM
AND DRAW
AND STUFF.

OH...
WELL,
I LIKE
COMICS
...

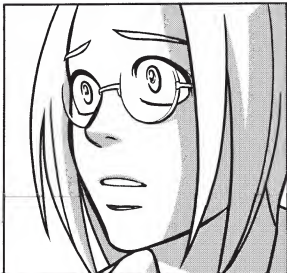


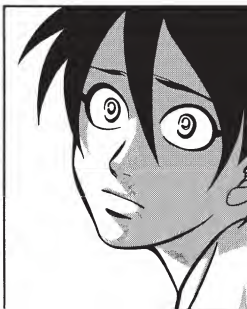
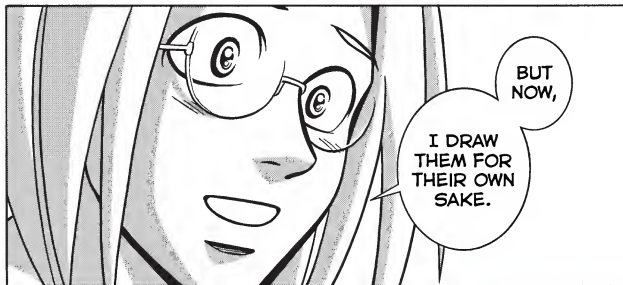
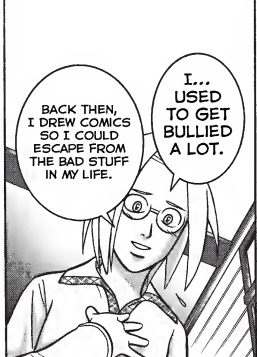
DOES IT
MAKE YOU
FORGET
ABOUT
YOUR
PAIN?

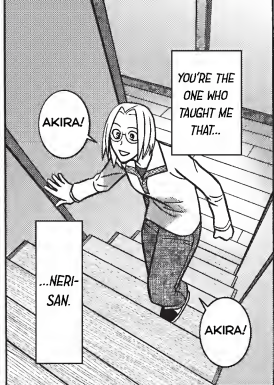


THANKS
...

HAVE
SOME
TEA...









Gate: Kokuyodani Private High



* While the moon is void of course (between astrological signs), it is said to decrease people's ability to reason to cause their plans to fail.



COME ON, SARA, TALK SOME SENSE INTO HER.

YOU ALWAYS SAY THAT!

THE MOON'S VOID OF COURSE RIGHT NOW, SO I'LL PASS ON MAKING PLANS.



WE'RE NOT GONNA GET TO PLAY IF WE DON'T.

HEY.

SHOULDN'T WE START SCHEMING TO LURE IN THE FRESH MEAT NEXT YEAR?

RAT
AT
AT
AT



...THEY'RE JUST GONNA QUIT ON US UNLESS THEY REALLY WANT TO PLAY.

NO MATTER WHAT WE DO TO BRING THEM IN...



AND THESE ONES HERE ARE JUST... WHOA...

EVEN IF SHE DID, IT'D MAKE SENSE SO STUPIDLY CAREFUL TO BE SICK.

NO WAY A CELEBRITY LIKE THIS IS GONNA COME HERE.

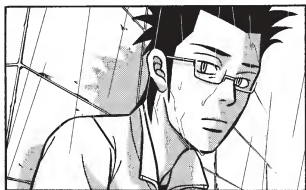
SHE'D HELP OPEN A CROWD

I LIKE THE LOOKS OF THIS ONE.



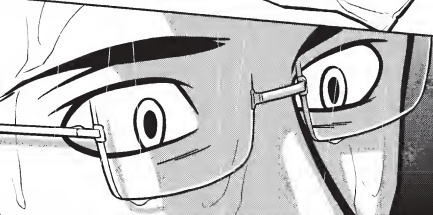
THERE'S NO NEED FOR CONCERN. IT SEEMS OUR COACH IS BETTING ON SOME OF THESE HERE.

THAT'S RIGHT. BETTER TO ADDRESS THE ROOT OF THE PROBLEM THAN TO TREAT THE SYMPTOMS.

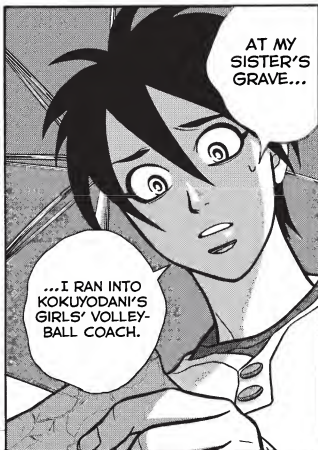




Card: Girl's Volleyball Coach
Fueko Jinnai



...SHE TOLD
ME TO PULL
MYSELF OUT
OF MY HOLE.



AT MY
SISTER'S
GRAVE...

...I RAN INTO
KOKUYODANI'S
GIRLS' VOLLEY-
BALL COACH.



GRA
AAH!

SMACK

HA-

WHACK

WHOA!

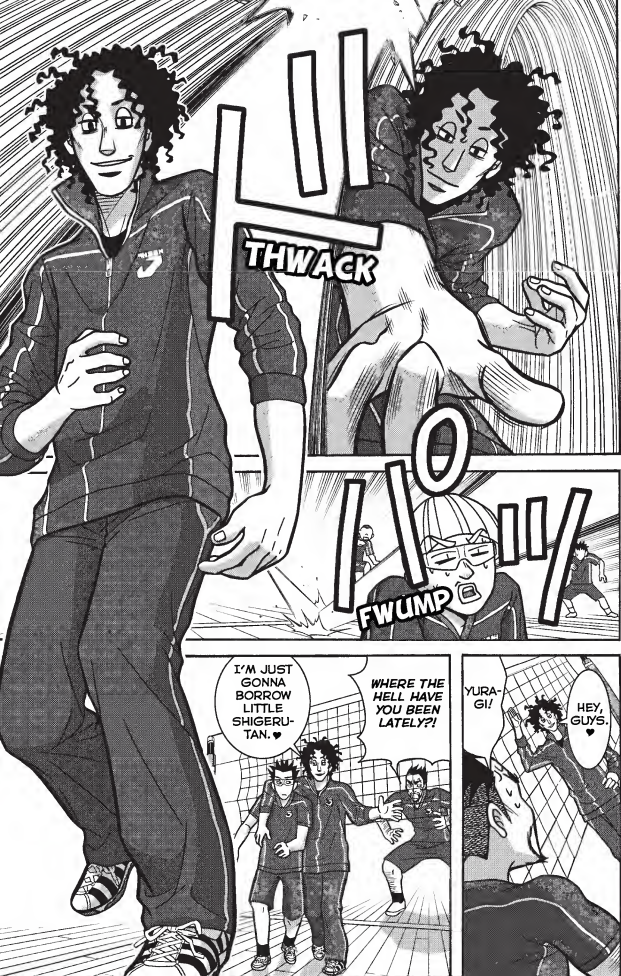
THMP

HA HA
HA

IF YOU DON'T
LIKE WHERE
YOU'RE AT, YOU'LL
HAVE TO LEARN TO
PASS IT SO YOU CAN
BE A STARTING
MEMBER! LEARN
TO PASS IT IF IT
KILLS YOU!

WHAT'D YA
THINK OF MY
GLORIOUS
SPIKE, ISA-
SAKA?

NO, SIR.
I'M JUST
FINE
WHERE
I'M AT!



THWACK

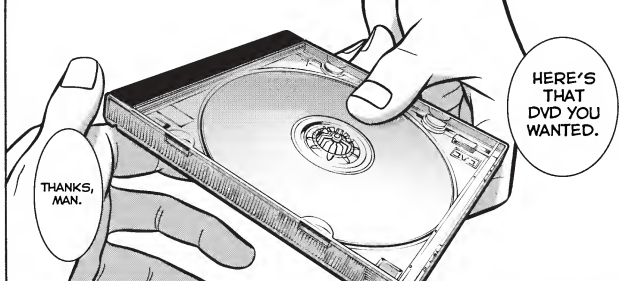
FWUMP

I'M JUST
GONNA
BORROW
LITTLE
SHIGERU-
TAN. ♥

WHERE THE
HELL HAVE
YOU BEEN
LATELY?!

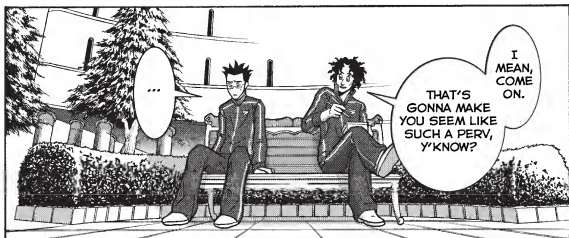
YURA-
GI!

HEY,
GUYS. ♥



Bento: Shigeru

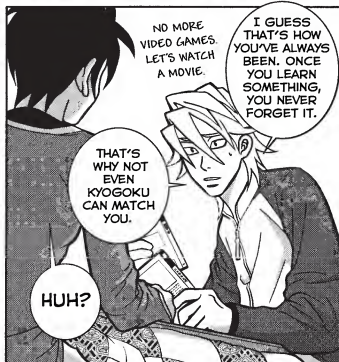




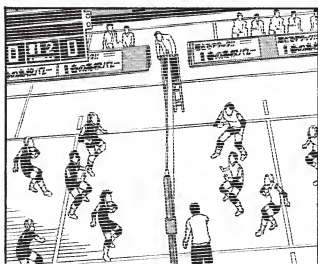
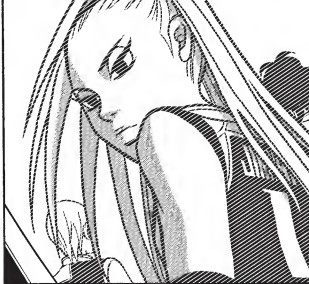
Game: Gokken 4

Sign: Shikishima Osteopathy (Right)
We offer: Osteopathic Health Care (Left)











Grave: Oishi Family Grave



SEE, AS LONG AS I
WAS PLAYING VOL-
LEYBALL, I DIDN'T
HAVE ANY TIME TO
THINK ABOUT YOU.





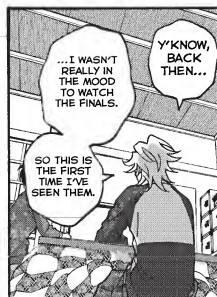
IT'S
LIKE
...

...THEY
WANTED
TO WIN
ONE FOR
MARI.



THEY
WON...

...BUT
NOBODY'S
SMILING.



...I WASN'T
REALLY IN
THE MOOD
TO WATCH
THE FINALS.

Y'KNOW,
BACK
THEN...

SO THIS IS
THE FIRST
TIME I'VE
SEEN THEM.



WOULD
YOU LOOK
AT
THAT?

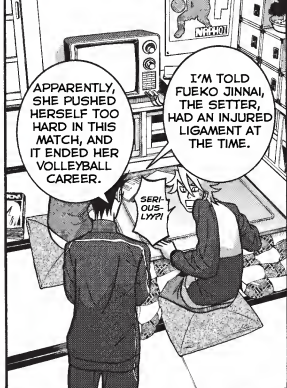
HA
HA
...



WHAT
ARE YOU
GONNA
DO?

NERI.

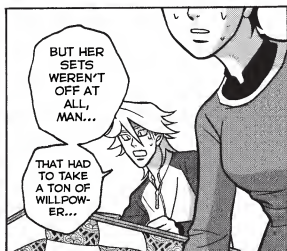
Fight 5, Over



APPARENTLY,
SHE PUSHED
HERSELF TOO
HARD IN THIS
MATCH, AND
IT ENDED HER
VOLLEYBALL
CAREER.

I'M TOLD
FUEKO JINNAI,
THE SETTER,
HAD AN INJURED
LIGAMENT AT
THE TIME.

SERI-
OUS-
LY?!



BUT HER
SETS
WEREN'T
OFF AT
ALL,
MAN...

THAT HAD TO
TAKE
A TON OF
WILLPOW-
ER...

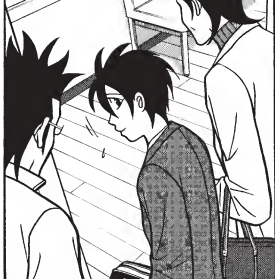


SO.



Sign: Shikishima Osteopathy

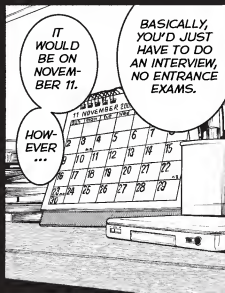
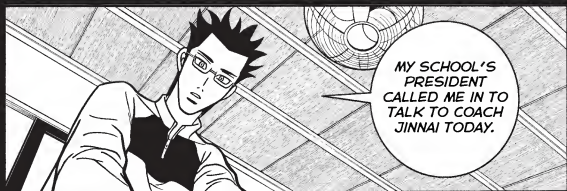


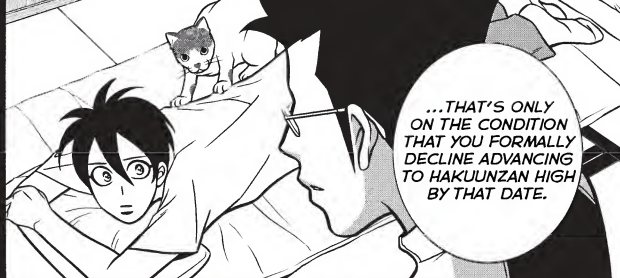


Fight 6

PALE SHARDS





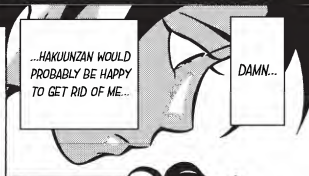


...THAT'S ONLY
ON THE CONDITION
THAT YOU FORMALLY
DECLINE ADVANCING
TO HAKUUNZAN HIGH
BY THAT DATE.



IS THERE
SOME KIND
OF CATCH
I'M MISSING?

...BUT
CAN THINGS
REALLY
BE THIS
SIMPLE?



...HAKUUNZAN WOULD
PROBABLY BE HAPPY
TO GET RID OF ME...

DAMN...



IT'S
MESSING
UP MY
FLOW!

THE
BATH IS
DIRTY.

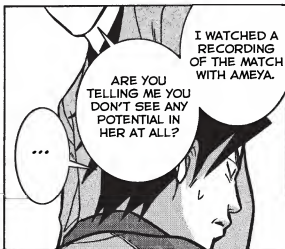
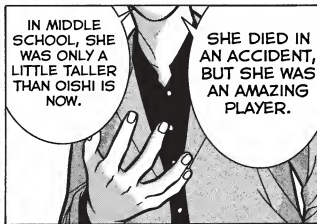
WHAT
?!

UGGGH, WITHOUT
NERI AROUND, THE
BALLS GET PICKED
UP AT A SNAIL'S
PACE, AND THE
LAUNDRY'S DONE
SLOPPILY.



I JUST THINK
IT MIGHT BE
BEST TO TRY
TO HANG ON TO
HER FOR NOW.

I CAN'T
FATHOM WHY
YOU'D BE SO
CONCERNED
ABOUT
OISHI, SIR.

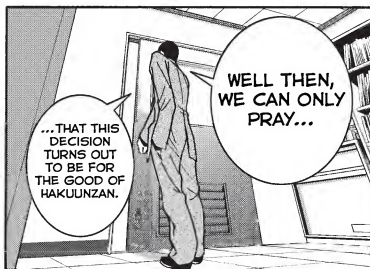




...FOR THE
SAKE OF SOME
UNMOTIVATED
PRODIGY.

JUST...

...HOWEVER
GOOD SHE MAY
BE, I'M NOT GO-
ING TO SCREW
OVER THE GIRLS
WHO'VE BEEN
TRAINING THEIR
ASSES OFF THIS
WHOLE TIME...



...THAT THIS
DECISION
TURNS OUT
TO BE FOR
THE GOOD OF
HAKUUNZAN.

WELL THEN,
WE CAN ONLY
PRAY...



I
SEE.

Sign: Guidance Office



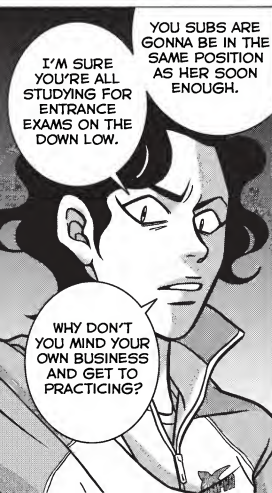
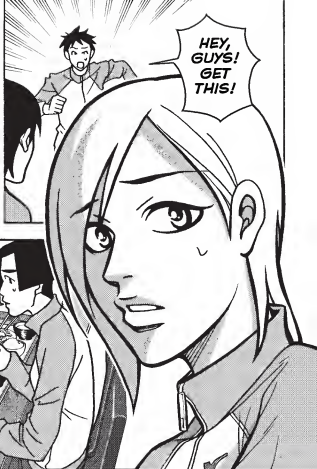
I'LL
BE
RIGHT
THERE.

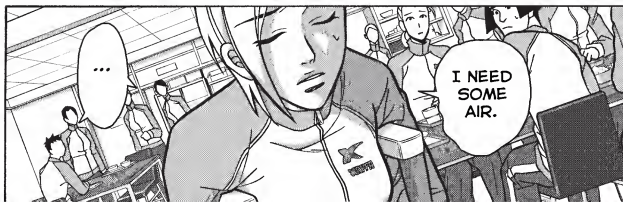
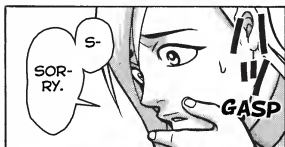
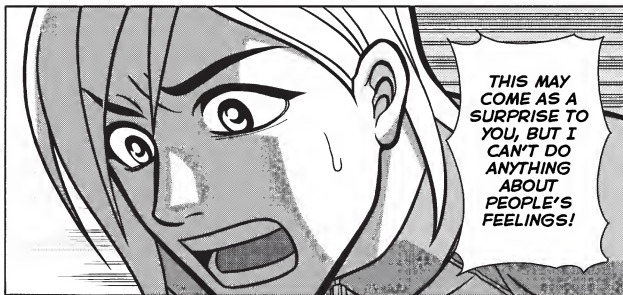
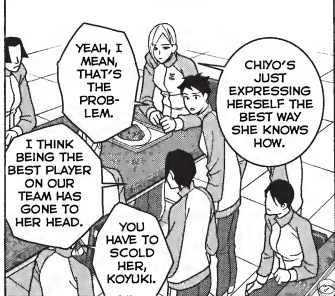


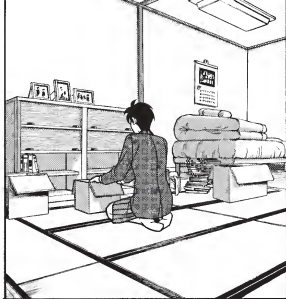
COACH.

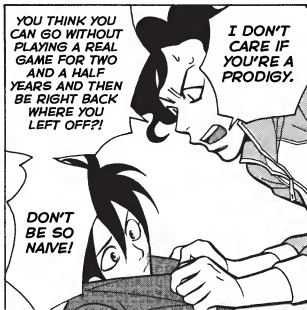
OISHI-
SAN HAS
ARRIVED.

SIGH
はあ





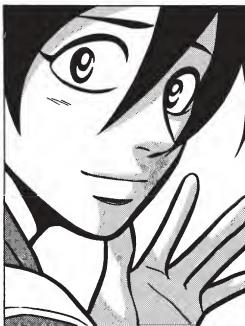
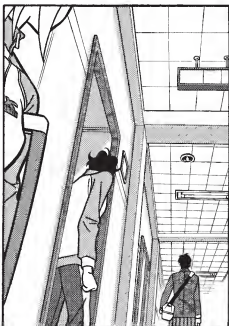
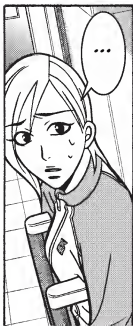






YOU'RE STRAIGHT-FORWARD AND HONEST.

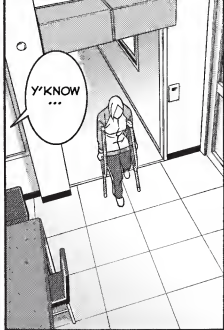






...I
THOUGHT OF
SOMETHING
WHILE WE WERE
PLAYING THAT
PRACTICE
GAME.

THIS
IS MY
OPINION
AS THE
TEAM'S
SETTER.



Y'KNOW
...



...HONESTLY,
IT'D BE NICE
TO HAVE NERI'S
ACCURATE
SERVE-
RECEPTION.

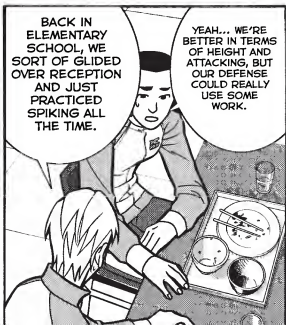
ONCE WE'VE
GOTTEN INTO
HIGH SCHOOL
AND OUR
UPPERCLASS-
MEN HAVE
RETIRED...

...IF WE WANT
TO WIN THE
SPRING HIGH-
SCHOOL VOLLEY-
BALL TOURNA-
MENT...



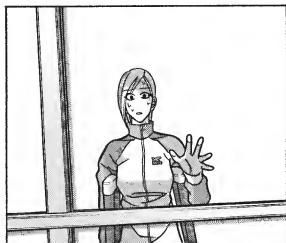
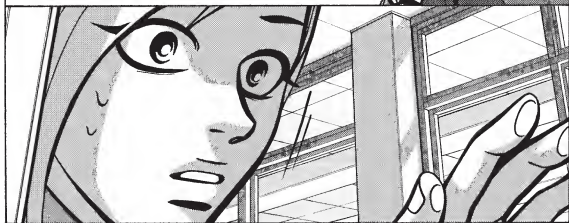
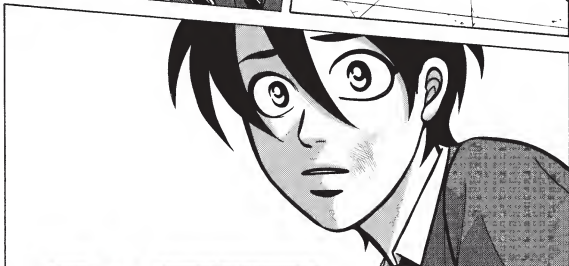
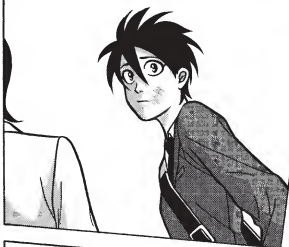
HAVING
NERI AS
OUR LIBERO
WOULD BE A
HUGE HELP,
THOUGH...

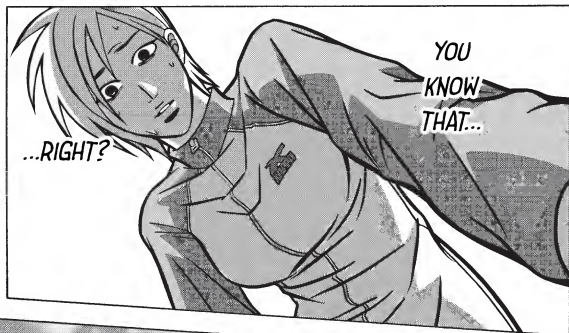
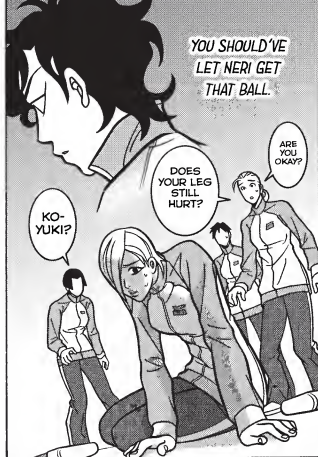
I GUESS
HOW GOOD YOU
ARE AT DEFENSE
DOESN'T MATTER
IF YOU'RE SHORT
AT THIS SCHOOL.

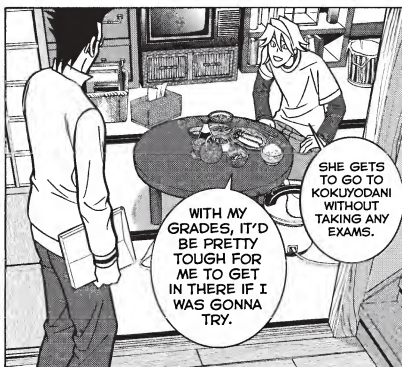


BACK IN
ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL, WE
SORT OF GLIDED
OVER RECEPTION
AND JUST
PRACTICED
SPIKING ALL
THE TIME.

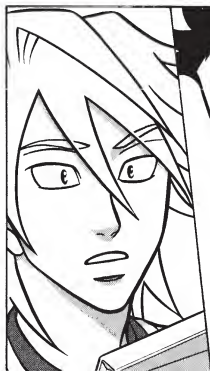
YEAH... WE'RE
BETTER IN TERMS
OF HEIGHT AND
ATTACKING, BUT
OUR DEFENSE
COULD REALLY
USE SOME
WORK.

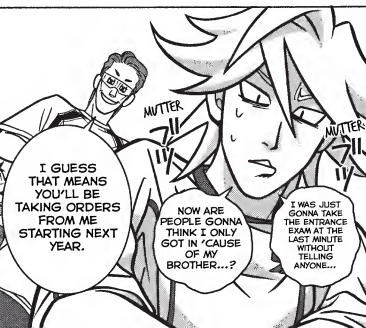
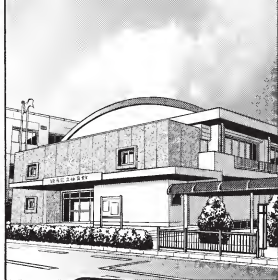




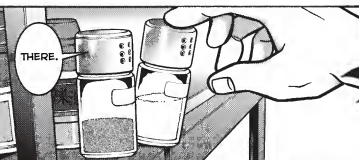
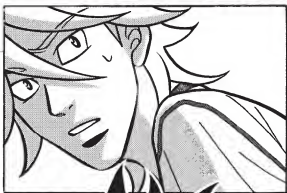


Paper: Kokuyodani Private High School Application











DON'T YOU WORRY.

...AT KOKU-YODANI.

I'M NOT SURE I'LL BE ABLE TO MAKE IT...



...FOR ME TO GET IN SO EASILY?

ARE YOU SURE IT'S ALL RIGHT...



WELL... IT WAS SIMPLER THAN I EXPECTED.

OH YEAH?



...TO LET YOU MEET THE SAME FATE MARI DID.

I DON'T INTEND ...



...NOTHING.

OH ...



I WANT TO SEE TO IT.

HUH?



I ALREADY TOLD YOU TO FORGET ABOUT THE BATHROOM THING.

DO YOU STILL FEEL LIKE IT WAS YOUR FAULT, SHIGERU?

NOVEMBER 11...

銭湯

おいしい

Sign: Oishi Bath House

OKAY.

WE'RE
HEADED
OFF TO THE
INTERVIEW.

TAKE
CAFE
NOW!

DON'T
SAY
ANYTHING
STUPID,
MICHIRU.

I KNOW!
I KNOW!

IT'S
PROBABLY
'CAUSE
OF MY
BROTHER.

Sign: Daikoku Groceries

I MEAN,
DIDN'T
THAT GO
FOR YOU,
TOO?

Y'KNOW,
WHY'D YOU GET A
RECOMMENDATION
EVEN THOUGH YOU
QUIT THE VOLLEY-
BALL CLUB?

AND YOUR
SISTER
WENT TO
KOKUYODANI.

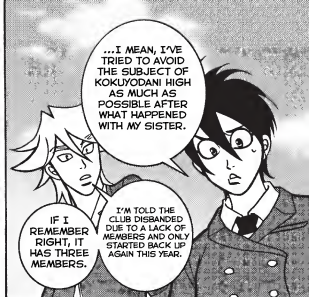
HUH?
YOU
DIDN'T
KNOW?

BY THE WAY, I
KNOW KOKU-
YODANI'S BOYS'
VOLLEYBALL TEAM
IS GOOD, BUT
HOW'S THEIR
GIRLS'
TEAM DOING?

THEY ARE A
BUSINESS,
AFTER ALL.

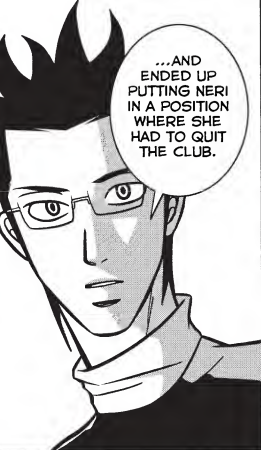
ANYWAY, I
WOULDN'T CARE
WHERE I WAS
GOING AS LONG
AS I GOT TO PLAY
VOLLEYBALL AND
DIDN'T HAVE
TO TAKE AN
ENTRANCE
EXAM.

THEY MUST NOT BE
GETTING AS MANY
APPLICANTS DUE TO
THE AGING POPU-
LATION, SO THEY'RE
MAKING UP FOR IT
WITH SOME GOOD
OLD-FASHIONED
NEPOTISM.

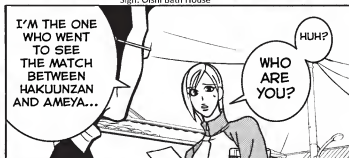


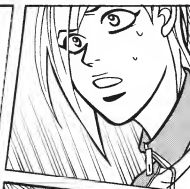
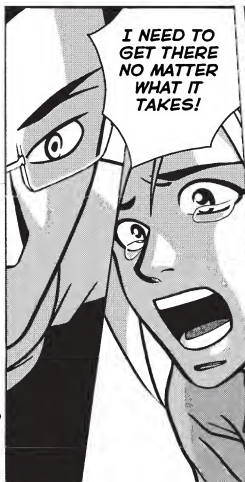
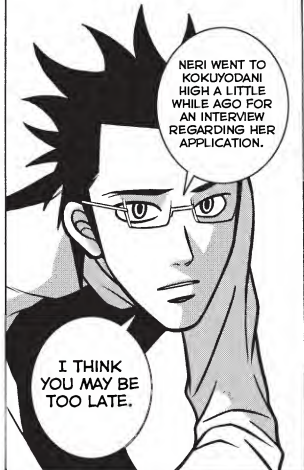
Sign: Shikishima Osteopathy

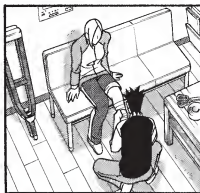


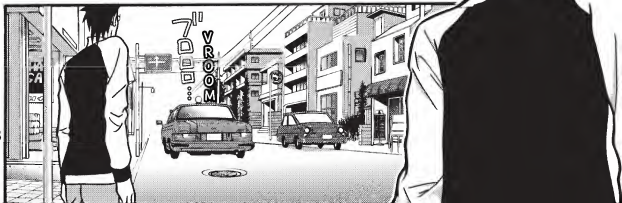
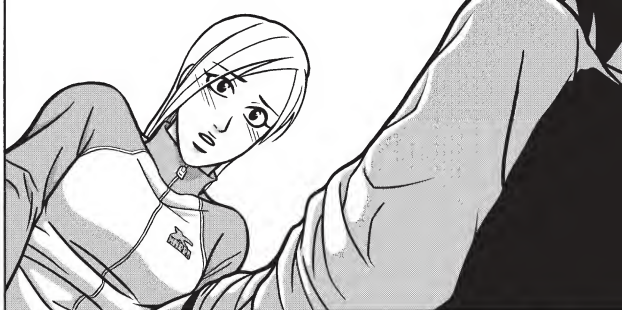


Sign: Oishi Bath House



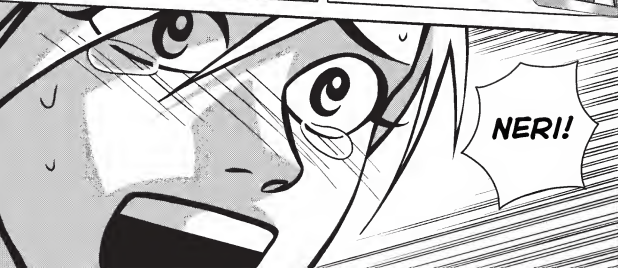


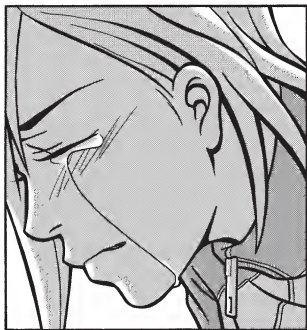
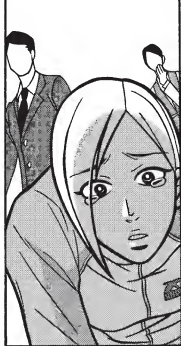






Sign: Ekoda Station





WELL...

...I DON'T
THINK YOU'RE
HALF-BAD,
CHIYO.

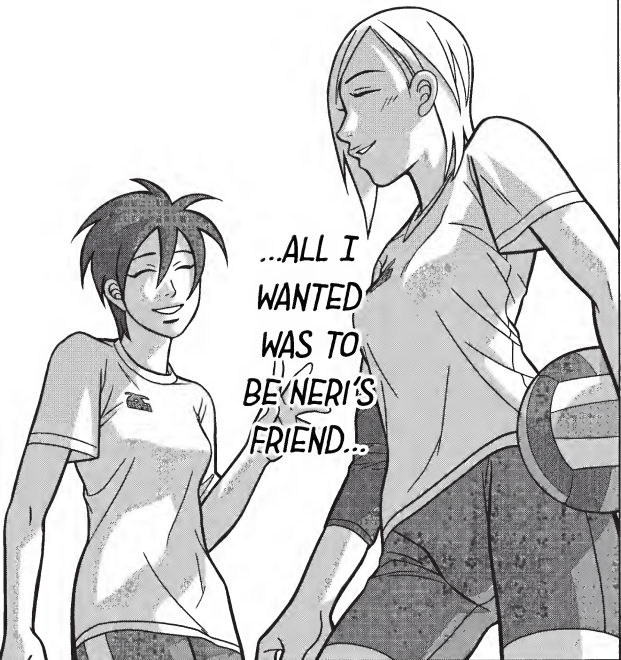


HONESTLY...

SHE WAS
CLOSER TO
NERI THAN I
EVER WAS.

...I ENVIED
CHIYO FROM
THE BOTTOM
OF MY HEART.

WHEN
I SAW
THAT...



...ALL I
WANTED
WAS TO
BE NERI'S
FRIEND...



I'M SUCH
AN IDIOT!

...BUT THANKS
TO MY STUPID
JEALOUSY,
THAT'S
IMPOSSIBLE
NOW.



Fight 6, Over

IT'S A SHABBY
OLD PLACE, BUT
WE BRING IN A
LOT OF FAMOUS
SPORTS PLAYERS.

MY HOUSE DOUBLES
AS AN OSTEOPATHIC
CLINIC, AND A PRETTY
FAMOUS ONE IN THE
INDUSTRY, AT THAT.



Fight 7

A LONG LETTER

Sign: Shikishima Osteopathy

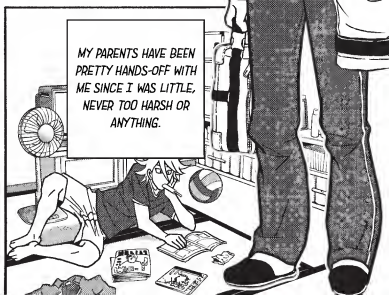
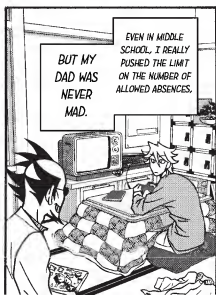


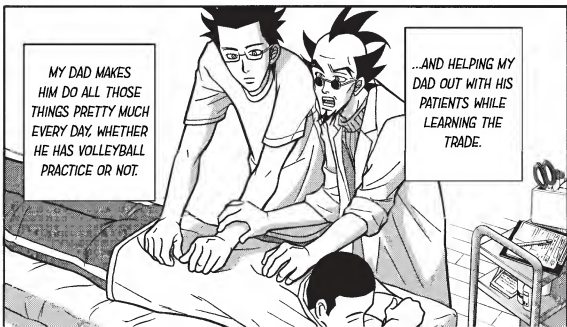
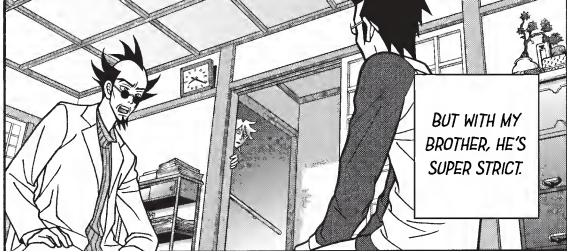
...BUT HE JUST
BLEW ME OFF
WITH SOME
STUPID ANSWER.

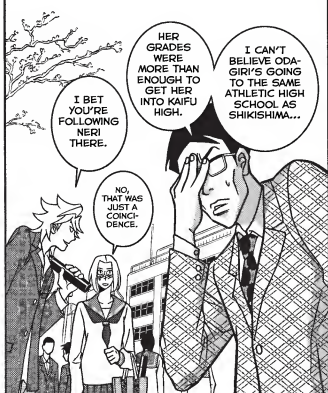
IT'S THE
PLACEBO
EFFECT.

A
HOUSE LIKE
THIS GIVES
PEOPLE THE
IMPRESSION
THE TREAT-
MENT WILL
WORK.

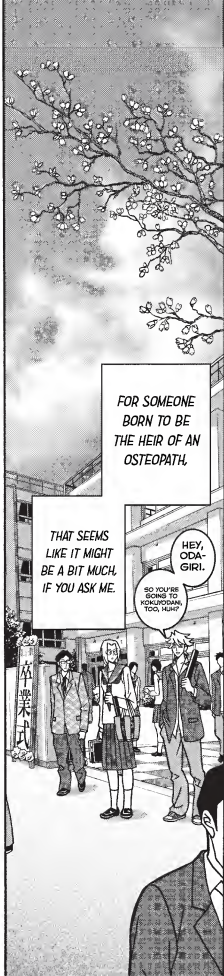
WE'RE NOT
EXACTLY SHORT ON
MONEY, SO I ASKED
MY OLD MAN WHY
WE DON'T GET THE
PLACE RENOVATED...

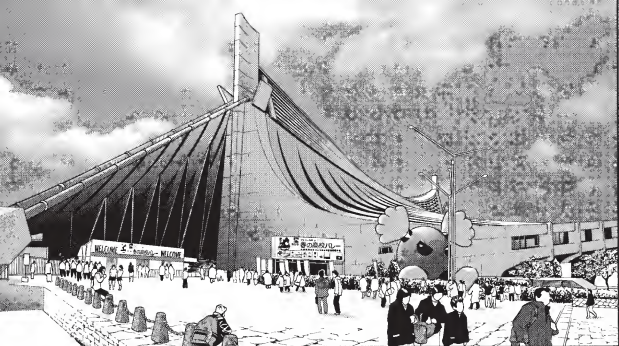






Sign: Graduation Ceremony

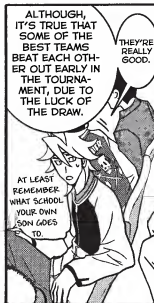


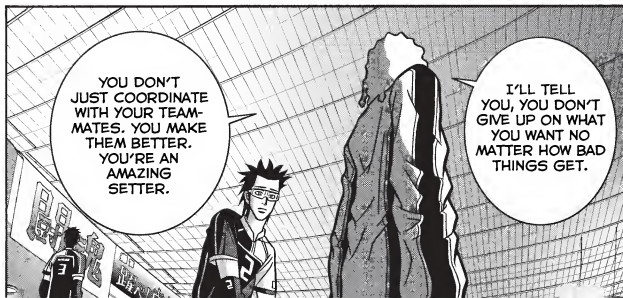


Sign: 37th Spring High-School Volleyball Tournament



Sign: Kokuyodani







YES,
SIR.



THOSE
THINGS WILL
CONTINUE TO
BE INVALUABLE
EVEN AFTER
YOU'VE QUIT
VOLLEYBALL.

I WANT YOU
TO SHOW ME
EVERYTHING
YOU'VE LEARNED
OVER THE YEARS
OUT THERE ON
THE COURT
TODAY.



NAGASAKI-TAIKA TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

TOKYO-KOKUYODANI HIGH SCHOOL



NORMALLY,
THAT WOULD
BE MY JOB
AS THE
OUTSIDE
HITTER.

DON'T
YOU
TRUST
ME?

JUST SET
EVERYTHING
TO ME IF WE
MESS UP ON
SERVE RE-
CEPTION.



DON'T
YOU
WORRY
ABOUT A
THING.

YURAGI,
IF I MESS
UP A SET-



YOU'RE GONNA DO YOUR BEST SHIGERU OR NO SHIGERU!

JUST KIDDING. I'LL DO MY BEST FOR SHIGERU-TAN'S SAKE.

LOOK AT YURAGI MAKING A FOOL OF HIMSELF AGAIN.

THE OLYMPICS, HUH?

JUST LEAVE HIM BE.

AH HA HA!

TACHIBANA



APOLOGIZE TO ALL THE OUTSIDE HITTERS IN JAPAN.

OUTSIDE HITTER

...EVEN IF YOUR OUTSIDE HITTER SORT OF SUCKS.

YOU KNOW VOLLEYBALL. AS LONG AS THE MIDDLE BLOCKER'S GOOD, THINGS TEND TO WORK OUT...

MIDDLE BLOCKER

PRETTY BIASED IF YOU ASK ME.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION, I'VE BEEN PICKED FOR A LITTLE THING CALLED THE JAPAN NATIONAL YOUTH TEAM.

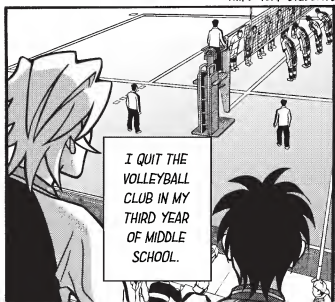
HEY, THIS IS THE LAST YEAR I'M PLAYING IN THE SPRING TOURNAMENT!

YOU'VE GOTTA TAKE THIS SERIOUSLY! PLEASE!

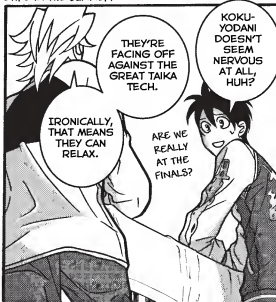
WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT IT, I GUESS EVERY MATCH IS JUST PRACTICE FOR THE OLYMPICS IN A WAY.

ANYWAY, PERSONALLY, I SEE TODAY'S FINALS AS A PRACTICE GAME FOR NEXT YEAR'S FINALS.

THIRD-YEAR STUDENTS RETIRE IN THE SUMMER.



I QUIT THE VOLLEYBALL CLUB IN MY THIRD YEAR OF MIDDLE SCHOOL.



THEY'RE FACING OFF AGAINST THE GREAT TAIKA TECH.

KOKU-YODANI DOESN'T SEEM NERVOUS AT ALL, HUH?

IRONICALLY, THAT MEANS THEY CAN RELAX.

ARE WE REALLY AT THE FINALS?



IT'S PRETTY IRONIC
HOW I HAD WAY MORE FUN
BACK WHEN THE THREE OF US
WERE PLAYING TOGETHER
SO WE WOULDN'T HAVE TO
THINK ABOUT MARI.

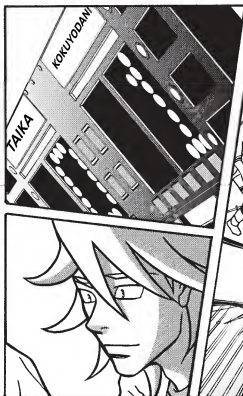


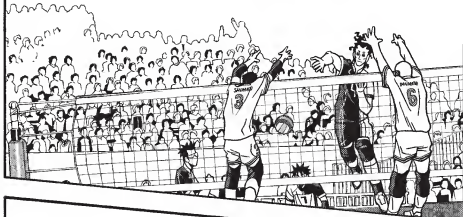
...BUT THAT'S
HONESTLY ALL
I'VE GOT.

I KNOW IT MUST
SOUND IMMATURE TO
SAY I QUIT OUT OF
FRUSTRATION WITH THE
OTHER GUYS NOT TAKING
THINGS SERIOUSLY...



THIS IS MY
BROTHER'S
LAST DAY ON
THE TEAM.



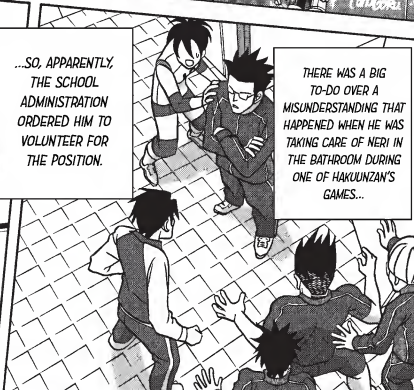


STARTING IN HIS SECOND YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL, HE'S GOING TO DEVOTE HIMSELF TO BEING THE GIRLS' TEAM TRAINER.

BUT IF THAT WERE ALL THERE WAS TO IT, HE WOULDN'T HAVE TO QUIT THE TEAM.

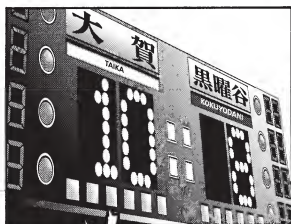
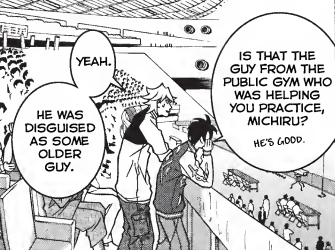
...SO, APPARENTLY, THE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION ORDERED HIM TO VOLUNTEER FOR THE POSITION.

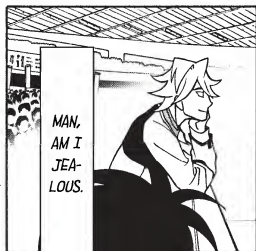
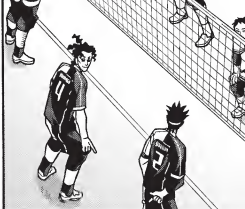
THERE WAS A BIG TO-DO OVER A MISUNDERSTANDING THAT HAPPENED WHEN HE WAS TAKING CARE OF NERI IN THE BATHROOM DURING ONE OF HAKUUNZAN'S GAMES...



...SO HE DOESN'T WANT TO TAKE HIS EYES OFF HER EVEN DURING PRACTICE.

HE'S PROBABLY WORRIED THAT NERI WILL END UP LIKE MARI, WHO DIED BECAUSE SHE HAD AN INJURED LEG AND COULDN'T DODGE A CAR...







IT MAKES ME
FEEL LIKE, IN
COMPARISON, I WAS
BEING A BABY FOR
QUITTING THE
WAY I DID.



...NO ONE TRIED
TO PRY. APPARENTLY,
THEY JUST ASSUMED
HE HAD A GOOD
REASON AND HIS
MIND WAS SET.

WHEN MY
BROTHER
TOLD
EVERYONE
HE WAS
QUITTING...

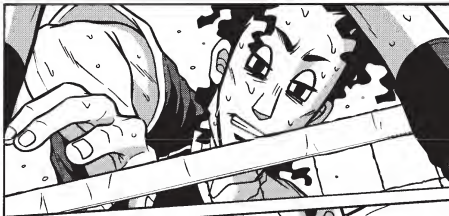
IT'S NOT
COMMON TO
BE TRUSTED
BY YOUR TEAM
THAT MUCH.



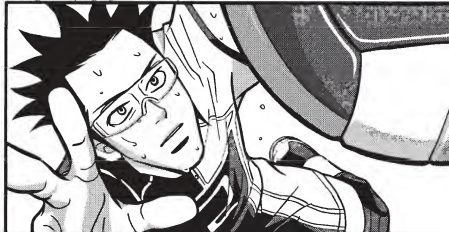


...CAN HELP
ME GROW UP
A LITTLE,
TOO.

I HOPE
GOING TO
KOKUYO-
DANI...



Building: 37th Spring High-School Volleyball Tournament





Blackboard: Spring Tournament After-Party





I BOUGHT IT WITH THE MONEY I'VE BEEN CHARGING YOU GUYS FOR MESSAGES.

IS THIS LIKE A PARTING GIFT?

SURPRISE
とっ
あ

AWWW, DAMN, SHIGERU!



IT'S FROM SHIGERU SHIKISHIMA-SAMA.



SAVING UP LITTLE BY LITTLE CAN GO A LONG WAY, SO PLEASE BE MORE CAREFUL WITH EVERYONE'S DUES.

WE BOUGHT SOME HEALTH EQUIPMENT OF QUESTIONABLE VALUE...

...NOT TO MENTION THAT TRAINING MACHINE THAT WAS WAY TOO EXPENSIVE.

...WE WEREN'T ABLE TO RENEW OUR SUPPLIES. I COULDN'T JUST LET THAT KEEP HAPPENING.

SINCE WE WASTED TOO MUCH OF THE CLUB'S BUDGET...

Book: Accounting book, Kokuyodani Boys' Volleyball Club



OH YEAH, HE'D BUY PROTEIN IN BULK AND STUFF

HA HA HA

HA HA HA

ははは

ははは

ははは

ははは

ははは

ははは

ははは

ははは

YOU WASTED MORE MONEY THAN ANY OF US, DIDN'T YOU, CAPTAIN?

WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA YURAGI?!

GRAAAA



THE END? I WON'T EXACTLY BE FAR.

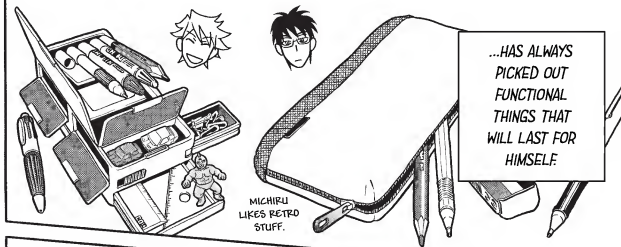
I'LL KEEP HELPING OUT HERE AND THERE JUST LIKE I ALWAYS HAVE.

C'MERE, YOU!

NO TOUCHING THE DANCERS, SIR.

PLAYING THE HERO RIGHT UNTIL THE END, HUH?

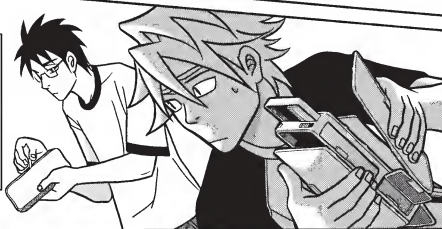




...HAS ALWAYS
PICKED OUT
FUNCTIONAL
THINGS THAT
WILL LAST FOR
HIMSELF.

MICHRU
LIKES RETRO
STUFF.

I ALWAYS GET
STUCK WITH JUNK THAT
I PICKED 'CAUSE IT WAS
FLASHY, AND I END UP
WANTING WHAT HE HAS.



I KNOW
YOU'LL PUT
THEM TO
GOOD USE.

THAT
STILL
HASN'T
CHANGED.

BUT ONCE HE
PICKS UP ON THAT,
MY BROTHER WILL
JUST GIVE ME
ANYTHING.

YOU DON'T
WANT THIS
STUFF
AS MEMEN-
TOS?

ARE
YOU
SURE,
MAN?

MEMEN-
TOS?

...I COULD
NEVER
STEAL...

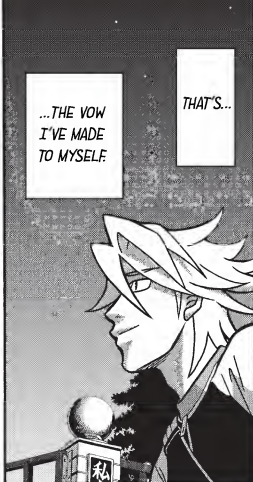
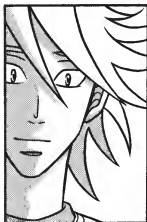
ALL THAT
MEAT WILL DO
A NUMBER ON
YOUR BOWELS
IF YOU DON'T
CHEW IT THOR-
OUGHLY.

I WANT SOME
COW TONGUE,
RIBS, SKIRT
STEAK, STEAK
TARTARE, FATTY
PORK--

IT'S BEEN
A WHILE
SINCE I'VE
HAD KOREAN
BARBECUE.

...THE ONE
THING I KNOW
HE TRULY
WANTS.

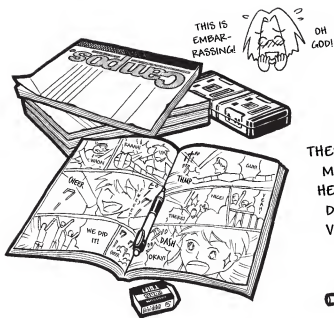




OUT OF PLAY

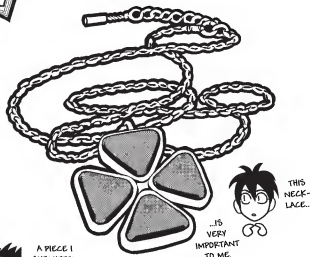


GIRL'S FIGHT



THESE ARE THE NOTEBOOKS MANABU USES TO DRAW HER COMICS. SHE MAINLY DRAWS STORIES ABOUT VOLLEYBALL STARRING NERI.

NERI NEVER TAKES OFF THIS NECKLACE, A KEEPSAKE FROM MARI. IT'S IN THE SHAPE OF A FOUR-LEAF CLOVER, A SIGN OF GOOD LUCK.



SENGOKU-SEMPAI LOVES THE MAGAZINE MONTHLY VOLLEY HEAVEN. HE'S A FAN OF THE VOLLEYBALL HAIKU COLUMN, AND HE REGULARLY SUBMITS HIS OWN.

Magazine: Monthly Volley Heaven

...YOU'LL GET
YOUR EARS
MEOWED
OFF!



I MEAN, IF YOU
DON'T FEED
THE LITTLE
RASCAL...



THIS IS NIKO, THE DISH
HOUSEHOLD'S CAT (FOUR
YEARS OLD). NIKO WAS A
STRAY UNTIL NERI TOOK
NIKO IN. NERI'S PAPA
DIDN'T LIKE THE IDEA AT
FIRST, BUT NOW HE LOVES
THIS CAT MORE THAN
ANYONE.

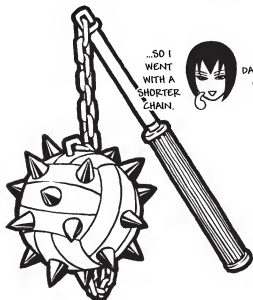
THIS IS YURAGI'S ALTERNATE
IDENTITY, WHICH HE USES TO
FREQUENT THE ASAHIDANI
DANDELIONS VOLLEYBALL
CLUB. HE CLAIMS TO BE A
REFORMED DELINQUENT
WHO NOW WORKS IN THE
PHARMACEUTICAL
INDUSTRY.



...DOES HE
MANAGE
TO TAME
THOSE
DREADS?



JUST
HOW...



...SO I
WENT
WITH A
SHORTER
CHAIN.



IT'S
DANGER-
OUS...

KYOKO LIKED HOW CHIAKI
KURIYAMA SWUNG A
MORNING STAR AROUND
IN A CERTAIN MOVIE, SO
SHE MADE A VOLLEYBALL
MORNING STAR FOR HERSELF.
IT'S COMPLETELY USELESS.



...TO
THROW
THEM
IN THEIR
CAGE.



YOU
ARE
NOT...

THESE ARE MIKASA VOLLEY-
BALLS. THEY'RE FAMOUS BALLS,
RIGHT UP THERE WITH THOSE
FROM MOLTEN. MIKASA BALLS
WERE USED IN ALL OF THE
FIVB'S TOURNAMENTS UNTIL
2008. NERI'S A FAN OF THEM.

THIS IS THE ASAHIDANI
OUTLET OF THE NATIONAL
CHAIN MURAKAMI SPORTS. THE
MANAGER WAS ADOPTED BY
THE FAMILY OF ONE OF MARI'S
FORMER TEAMMATES BY
MARRYING THEIR DAUGHTER.

HE'S AN ALUMNUS OF
KOKUYODANI HIMSELF, TOO.



...HAS HIM
DOMESTI-
CATED.



THE
WIFE...



THIS IS YURAGI'S HOMEMADE
LUNCH. HE MAKES IT JUST
TO ENJOY EATING IT NEXT TO
SHIGERU, NOT TO GIVE IT TO
HIM. IT'S EVEN RUMORED TO
BE A LITTLE BETTER THAN A
CLASSIC SHOKADO BENTO.



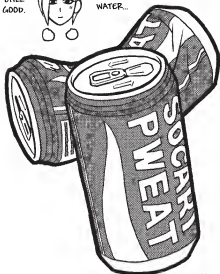
I GET UP
EARLY TO
MAKE IT.

Bento: Shigure

...AND
THEY'RE
STILL
GOOD.



YOU CAN
DILUTE
THEM WITH
WATER...



...IT'S
MY ONE
PLEASURE.



TRULY...

KOYUKI'S IN THE HABIT OF DRINKING THESE SPORTS DRINKS. THE ONLY PLACE TO FIND THEM AT HAKUUNZAN MIDDLE SCHOOL IS IN THE VENDING MACHINE NEXT TO THE GYM, SO SHE LIKES TO SNEAK OUT OF THE DORMS AT NIGHT TO BUY THEM.

MANABU AND AKIRA ARE BOTH FANS OF WEEKLY SHONEN FIGHT. THEY SEEM TO PARTICULARLY ENJOY THE COMIC ABOUT VOLLEYBALL BY MACHIZO SAKAIDA. THIS IS PROBABLY WHERE SHOJO FIGHT'S TITLE COMES FROM, TOO.



Magazines: Weekly Shonen Fight



...I JUST
PICKED WHAT-
EVER SEEMED
GOOD AT THE
TIME.



I
MEAN...

THESE ARE SHIGERU'S BAGS FOR HIS SPORTS GEAR AND SHOES. THEY'RE DURABLE, HIGH-QUALITY GOODS THAT WILL LAST AND ARE VERY LIGHT, TO BOOT. THEY'VE NOW BEEN PASSED DOWN TO MICHIRU.

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SPECIAL THANKS

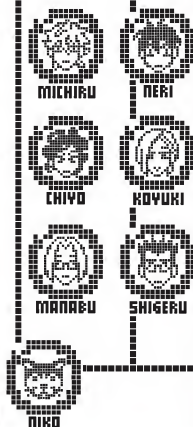
AYA IMAI

SAKI UCHIDA

RUI TAZAWA

AND YOU!

GIRL'S FIGHT



<http://www.yowoko.com/>

Shojo Fight 1

KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

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